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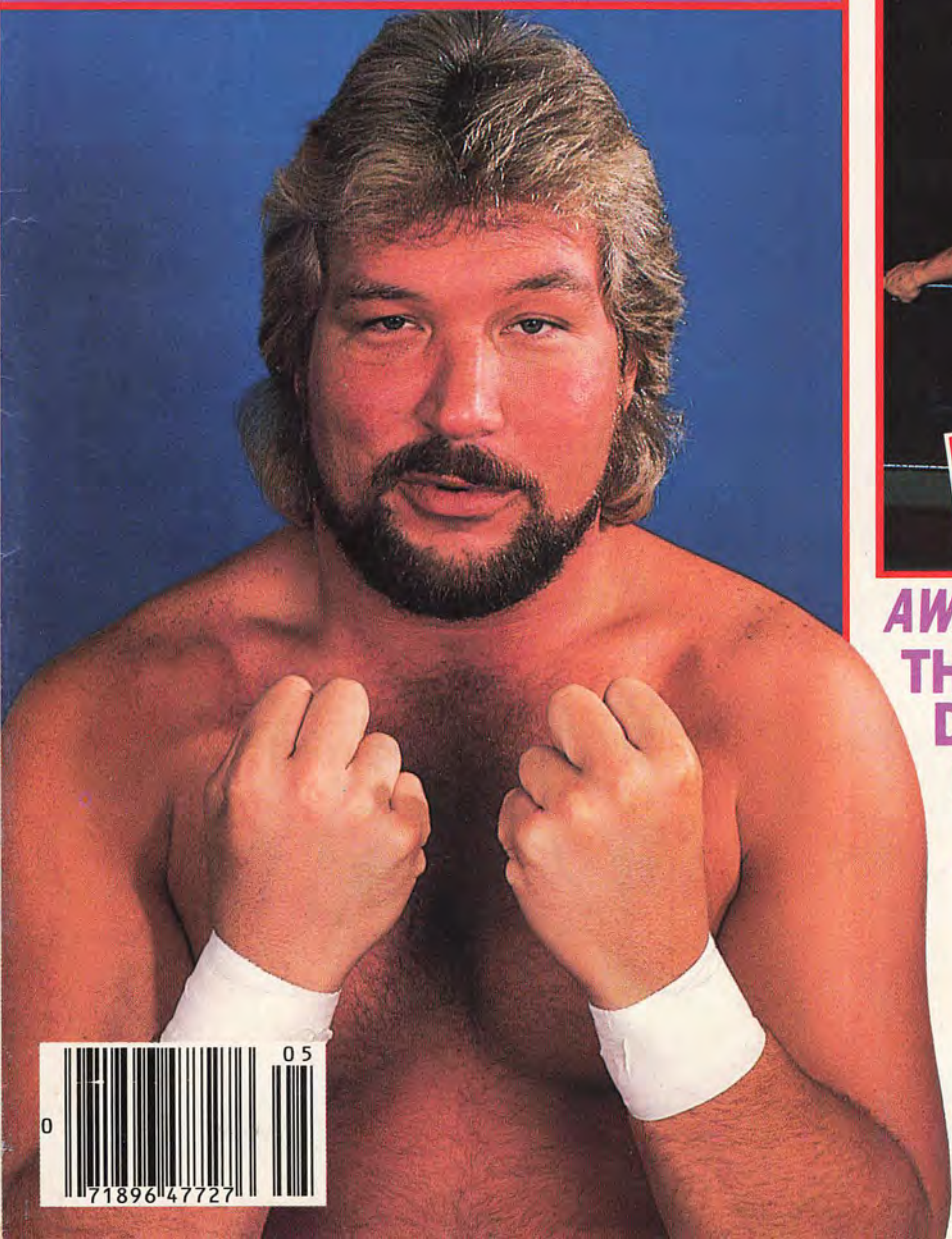


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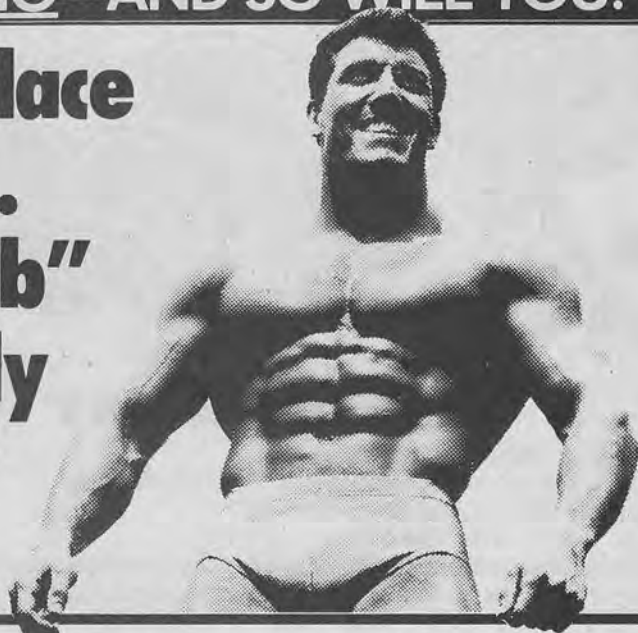
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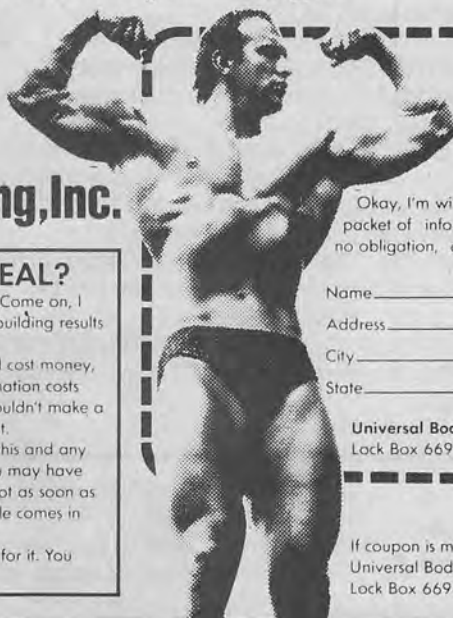
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INSIDE

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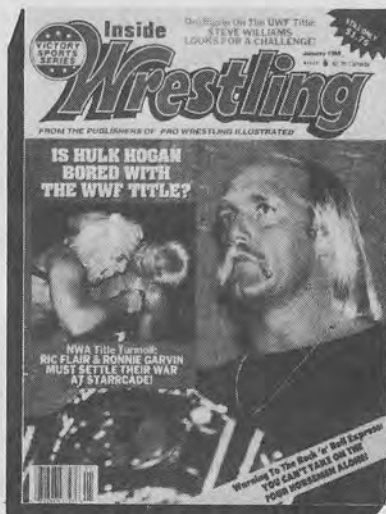
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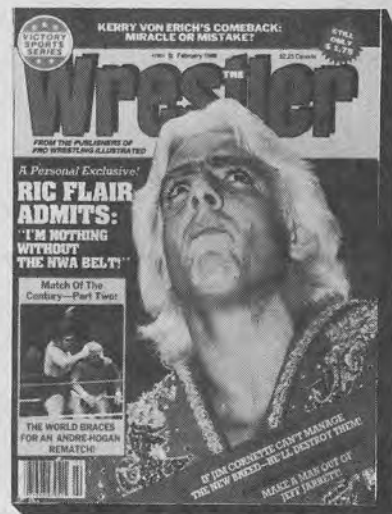
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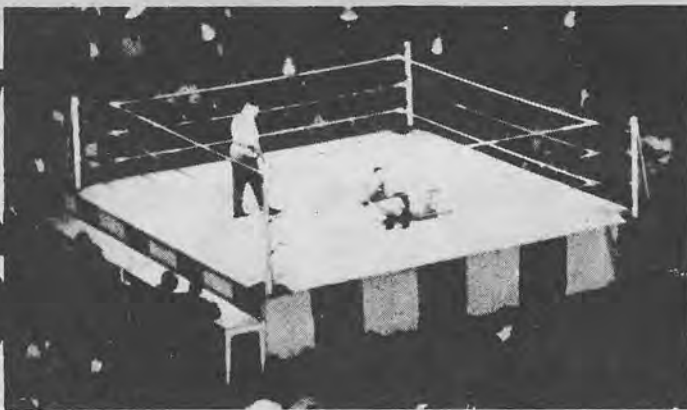
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SINCERELY YOURS

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LUGER'S MISTAKE

I think Lex Luger made the worst decision of his career when he quit The Four Horsemen. They took him under their wing and made him "The Total Package" he is today. Thanks to J.J. Dillon, Luger won the U.S. title from Nikita Koloff. He lost that title to "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes because he didn't follow Dillon's game plan, and then—out of greed—he threw Dillon over the top rope to win The Bunkhouse Stampede.

Lex has no allies and is taking on the Horsemen all by himself. Frankly, I don't think he can do it.

MATT McCLURE
Lanoka Harbor, NJ

ALWAYS TOGETHER

I'm writing to tell you my opinion of the article "It's Time For The Rock 'n' Roll Express To Split Up!" (February 1988).

ary 1988).

I am a Rock 'n' Roll Express fan and I love both of them. Just because Robert Gibson submitted for Rick Morton doesn't mean he threw in the towel. Rick and Robert have been NWA World tag team champions four times. Did you say they should split up when they lost the title the three previous times? No! So why now?

What is wrong with Gibson showing his emotions? He's human, isn't he? Imagine if you were Robert Gibson in that match and you saw your friend Rick Morton being punished on an already injured shoulder. Would you submit for him, or let him keep suffering?

I'm fed up with people trying to cause trouble between Rick and Robert. Why doesn't the press just leave them alone and let them wrestle?

JENNIFER VARGO
Cresson, PA



Any suggestion that The Rock 'n' Roll Express split up is termed ridiculous by reader Jennifer Vargo, who thinks Rick Morton and Robert Gibson are far from through as a team.

JAKE'S NO SNAKE

An open letter to David Rosenbaum:

I read your "Behind The Dressing Room Door" column in the March 1988 issue, and something really bothers me. You wrote about Jake Roberts' "tainted" battle royal victory after Ted DiBiase paid two men to quit the match. You wrote that Roberts "isn't exactly of high moral character," and you also wrote "fairness and integrity mean nothing to Roberts."

Give me a break!

Fairness and integrity were the main reasons for "The Snake's" move to fan favorite! The mere fact that he turned down \$10,000 to beat up "The Million-Dollar Bonehead" clearly proves where his morals are. Roberts would have turned down the money regardless of whether or not Hercules Hernandez or Dino Bravo accepted the bribe. Roberts is afraid of no man and never backs down from a fight.

Jake was ranked ninth in the WWF in the same issue that your misinformative article appeared, while Hercules and Bravo were nowhere to be found. That tells me they aren't enough to take care of Roberts. So why should he take the money? Victories get you title shots, not money. DiBiase can attest to that. I think Roberts deserves more credit.

MIKE CHENOWETH
Paxton, IL

NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS

I have an idea for an annual wrestling event that would drive fans crazy and make promoters a lot of money.

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(Continued on page 58)

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
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Editor-in-Chief

It's a mere two pages in the magazine. Maybe a thousand words. Takes all of 20 minutes to type into our computer system. But, take my word for it, "One On One" is the most time-consuming, painfully produced column in INSIDE WRESTLING. Think about it: Each month our task is to bring together via telephone two people who, if they were to meet face to face, would be trying to rip each other's heads off.

The first step in the process is to select the two antagonists. It is our editorial policy to make a selection and stick with it. Often we experience extreme difficulties in getting the two men together (for personal and logistical reasons) and are tempted to select two other wrestlers as deadline approaches, but to do so would be to sell short our readers. In the 10 years we have run "One On One" (beginning with Bob Backlund vs. Superstar Graham in the November 1978 issue), we have changed our selection only eight times.

To go into all the problems that we face in bringing you "One On One" would fill an entire book. But, since in this issue we have Tommy Rich vs. Austin Idol, let me run down some of the demands that were stated before they actually agreed to talk.

IDOL: I speak first or forget it. RICH: We do it at four o'clock after my workout. IDOL: Rich knows that I begin my workout at 3:30; he's trying to sabotage my training regimen. RICH: Dangerously cannot be in the room with Idol. IDOL: You guys have to give me Rich's home phone number.

OUR SOLUTION: Idol spoke first (Rich didn't care); the call was set up in the evening after both men's workouts; Dangerously was out of town, anyway; Idol was given Rich's number and we footed the bill to have the number changed the next day.

It wasn't easy to get it together. Then again, it rarely is.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

IS BRETT HART the best wrestler in the World Wrestling Federation?

That depends on whether you're talking about men or women, because for overall agility, skill, and stamina, The Jumping Bomb Angels have no peers. In any event, I'm going to do my best to be at WrestleMania IV on Sunday, March 27, because Hart and the Angels *will* be there, and I really couldn't care less if Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant weren't within 3,000 miles of the arena.

Brett Hart and The Jumping Bomb Angels put on a memorable show for over 17,500 fans at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton, Ontario, and hundreds of thousands of others watching the WWF's Royal Rumble card live on the USA cable network on January 24. The Rumble, which Hart competed in but didn't win, was the most exciting wrestling event I've seen since the tag team match of The Survivor Series on Thanksgiving. The Angels' best-of-three-falls victory over The Glamour Girls for the WWF women's tag title was a perfect example of what wrestling in this country should be, but so often isn't.

And the WWF did it all without Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, Andre the Giant, Strike Force, and The British Bulldogs. Hogan and Andre were on hand to sign contracts for their February 5 match in Indianapolis, but didn't wrestle. They appeared for all of 10 minutes of a three-hour card, and the show wouldn't have been hurt if they weren't there at all. The crowd didn't stop cheering for a minute.

What a shock it must have been for these Hulkamaniacs to
(Continued on page 48)



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THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY no way that I was going to get a flight into Calgary. The Winter Games of the XV Olympiad (okay, it's pompous, but I love how that sounds!) made the purchase of airline seats to The Great White North less likely than having a pair of front row seats for a Bruce Springsteen concert land in my mailbox with Ed McMahon's face on the envelope.

So all my traveling this month would have to be done by telephone, as is getting to be more and more the case these days (especially while a guy with seniority like Matt Brock keeps chewing up the office travel budget). Just as well; the thought of being near a crowd of 100,000 people scrambling for tickets to the luge competition makes me happy to be home watching the Games on television.

But the Calgary Olympics isn't the point of this column, although Calgary itself is.

Because that's the home of Stampede wrestling, an area that has been a proving ground for such stars as The British Bulldogs, The Hart Foundation, and The Honky Tonk Man. And that has a remarkable crop of current talent ready to bring the sport into the 1990s, men like Jason the Terrible, Brian Pillman, Steve DiSalvo, and 1987 Rookie of the Year Owen Hart.



Brian Pillman

In a very real sense, Owen has been the point man in a remarkable surge of interest in the Stampede area. To be fair, though, it's a level interest that should have come long ago.

"Stampede wrestling has been sort of a sleeping giant up here in Canada," said Ross Hart, a member of the legendary Hart family in Calgary who handles public relations for Stampede. "There's always been a high premium placed on wrestling excellence. The guys that reach the top of the ratings in Calgary have demonstrated that they know how to *wrestle*. This is a very, very tough area in which to succeed. It's a proving ground, and you're not about to get by on looks or bragging. That can get you some attention, but it can't win you any matches, and it can't help you defend against some of the aerial tactics that seem to predominate styles in Calgary more than anywhere else."

It's those aerial tactics that have helped bring Calgary wrestlers like The Hart Foundation and The British Bull-

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

dogs such fame in recent years, and that promise to help catapult young Owen Hart to the top of the wrestling world. But there's another reason why Calgary wrestlers emerge from that area with such finely honed skills: discipline. Calgary referee Jurgen Hermann explains:

"There's a very strict enforcement of the rules here in Stampede, and we utilize a system that, to my knowledge, isn't in effect anywhere else in wrestling. It's a card system. If a wrestler

gets out of hand during a match, if he refuses to follow the referee's instructions, for example, the referee signals for a yellow card to be flashed by officials at ringside. The first yellow card is a warning, as is the second. The third card is a red card, meaning that the wrestler has earned himself

a disqualification. At that point, if a man is completely out of control and continues on his course, a black card is issued which means immediate suspension for a length of time to be determined by Stampede officials at a later time."

"The card system is very effective," says Stu Hart, patriarch of the Hart family.



Owen Hart

"Wrestlers know that rules will be enforced strictly and that definite action will be taken. A card is a card, it's concrete, it makes the wrestler think twice before stepping over the line. He knows that there's a very definite and very clear progression from yellow card to black card, and that the referees aren't afraid to issue cards when they see fit. As a result, wrestlers in Calgary stick within the rulebook."

And sticking within the rulebook means that they have to find ways *within the rules* to win matches, hence the premium placed on science, on teamwork in tag matches, and on aerial tactics.

I think it's great that Stampede is getting more attention now than ever before. The problem is that people have to realize that Stampede, while a great proving ground for young talent, isn't an area to be taken lightly. They're not like baseball's farm system; they're a major-league caliber promotion all by themselves. The quality of the wrestling and the quality of the athlete in Stampede may, on average, be higher than anywhere else in the wrestling world.

They're an area that every wrestling fan ought to keep a close, close eye on. □



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DUSTY RHODES

On January 24 at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, Long Island, **Dusty Rhodes** won the Bunkhouse Stampede championship for the third consecutive year. One of the most interesting aspects of the match was the battle-within-the-battle pitting **Lex Luger** against **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson**.

Luger, who turned against **The Four Horsemen** in early December, has aborted his U.S. and NWA World title drives for the time being to concentrate on wiping out the Horsemen. In fact, Luger, who was one of the favorites to win the Stampede, seemed more intent on eliminating Blanchard and Anderson than on taking home the \$500,000 prize. As it turned out, Blanchard, Anderson, and Luger were simultaneously eliminated when they toppled thorough the cage door, leaving only Rhodes and **Konga the Barbarian**.

"I'm going to prove to these men and everybody in the entire world that Lex Luger is the greatest wrestler alive," said Luger afterward. "They tried to mess with 'The Total Package'

and now they're going to pay the price. After I'm finished with them, there'll be no way for **Ric Flair** to escape me, and then I'll have the NWA World championship belt wrapped around my waist."

Also on the card, **Larry Zbyszko** defeated **Barry Windham** for the Western States title. This fast-paced match ended with a groogy referee, **Dick Kroll**, making a three-count after recovering from a collision in the ring. Windham missed a bodypress and flew through the ropes to the arena floor. The champion came back with a sun-



BABY DOLL & LARRY ZBYSZKO

set flip and backslide for the near-pin, but Zbyszko escaped. Zbyszko then attempted a piledriver, but Windham reversed it to a backdrop and went for the pin. **Baby Doll**, however, took off her shoe and passed it to Zbyszko. Kroll, who had not yet come to his senses, did not see the exchange. Zbyszko nailed Windham with the shoe and covered him for the three-count just as Kroll came to. Windham now figures to concentrate his efforts on teaming with **Lex Luger**. And as a



MIKE GEORGE

story in this issue (written before the title change) warns, Zbyszko will have to keep one eye on Baby Doll!

Mike George won the first World Wrestling Alliance heavyweight championship by defeating veteran **Dick Slater** in the final round of a tournament in Kansas City . . . **John Tatum** and **Jack Victory** won the World Class Texas tag team title from **Skip Young**, who represented the championship team of Young and **Tony Atlas** against Tatum and Victory in a handicap match when Atlas failed to show. Young was helped in the bout by **Solomon Grundy**, who ran into the ring to aid his friend, but the help came too late. Tatum and Victory now hold two titles, the other being the Wild West tag team championship.

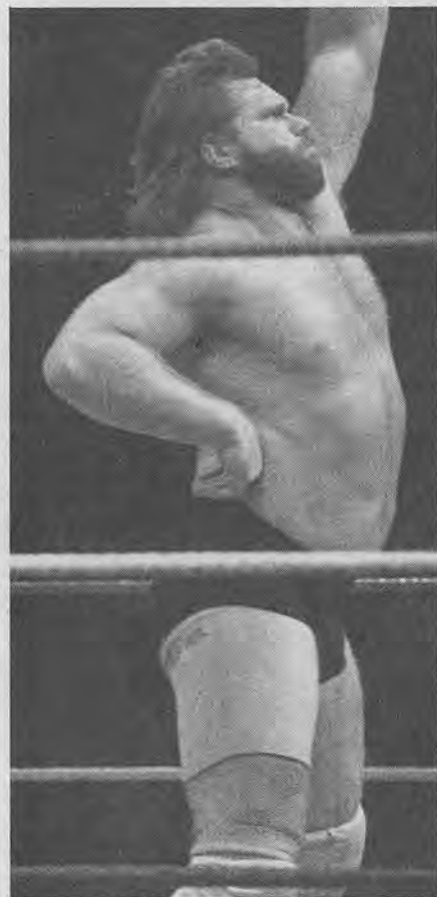
The Iron Sheik is negotiating a returned to the WWF. The former WWF World champion was scheduled to appear on the February Madison Square Garden card . . . **Misty Blue Simmes** is teaming with **Dusty Rhodes** and **Nikita Koloff** in six-

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

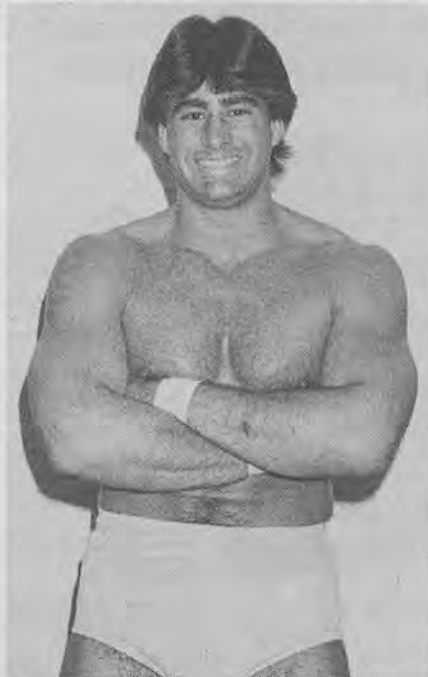
man matches against **Jim Cornette** and **The Midnight Express**... **Samoan Afa** and **Rocky Johnson** are feuding in the World Wrestling Council in Puerto Rico; Afa and Johnson were friends in the Trans World Wrestling Federation... **Chris Adams** and **Terry Gordy** are the top contenders to **Al Perez's** World Class heavyweight title; **Kerry** and **Kevin Von Erich** are also on the list.

Although **Hacksaw Jim Duggan** won the WWF's Royal Rumble on January 24 in Hamilton, Ontario, everybody is talking about the performance of former UWF heavyweight champ **One Man Gang**. The 468-pound giant from Chicago tossed **B. Brian Blair**, **Jake "The Snake" Roberts**, **Hillbilly Jim**, **Ultimate Warrior**, **Magnificent Muraco**, and **Dino**



HACKSAW DUGGAN

Bravo over the ropes before getting eliminated by Duggan in controversial fashion. Gang went over the top rope when Duggan ducked a clothesline, but videotape replays showed that Duggan held down the rope. Bravo was also eliminated when Duggan ducked Gang's clothesline.



TOM ZENK

Tom Zenk, formerly of **The Can-Am Connection** with **Rick Martel**, has signed with the AWA and set his sights on AWA World champion **Curt Hennig**. Moments after the announcement, Zenk told reporters: "I'd like to find a good tag team partner, but my main objective is the World championship. I learned from teaming with Rick that the only person you can really trust is yourself, and although I would never turn my back on a partner, I'd rather just leave things in my own hands." AWA President **Stanley Blackburn** said Zenk would get a title shot if he proves himself worthy.

Over 8,000 fans attended former wrestler **Mark Tendler's** first card at



THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

the Palasport in Rome, Italy. In the main event, **Antonio Inoki** pinned **Bad News Allen**. By the way, Allen is now wrestling in the WWF as **Bad News Brown**... CWA officials ruled that **The Midnight Rockers** cannot hold both the CWA and AWA World tag team titles, so the Rockers have vacated the CWA belts... **The Nasty Boys** recently signed to wrestle full-time in the AWA and are top contenders to the Rockers' belts... Rule-breaker **Max Pain** is new to the CWA.

Speaking of the CWA, Terry Taylor's arrival caught everybody by surprise, but his departure was even more sudden. Columnist **Liz Hunter** was right on the mark when she said in her column this month that Terry is close to the edge. I think it's entirely possible that he's gone over!

That's all for now, fans! See you at the matches! □

Inside Wrestling

Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of **INSIDE WRESTLING**, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!

July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbyszko, Heenan, Strongbow.

September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.

November 1974/Stories include: Garvins, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.

August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.

September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.

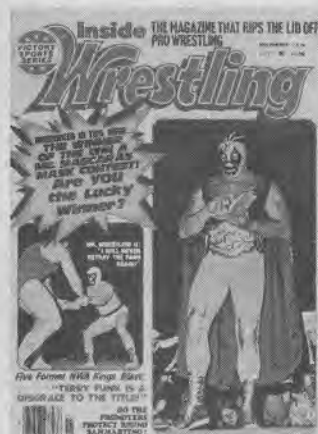
March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.

April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.

August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.

October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.



NOVEMBER 1976

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.

December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.

January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.

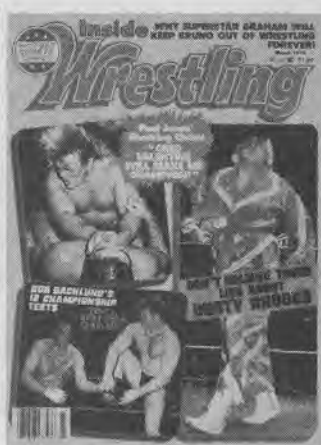
August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.

December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.



MARCH 1978

March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.

August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.

November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.

December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.

January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.



JANUARY 1979

February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.

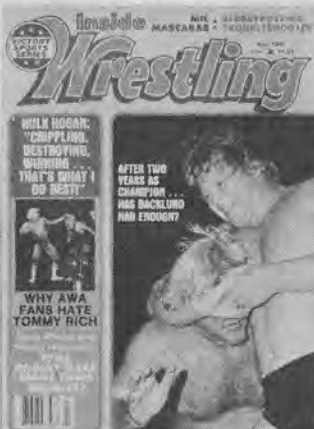
June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.



APRIL 1980

April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humberdink.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

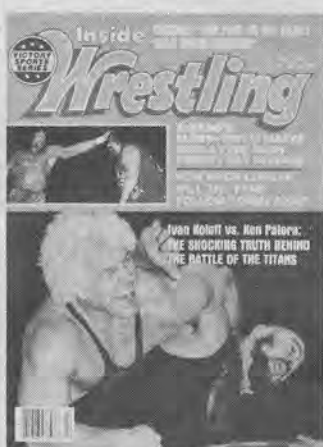
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.



APRIL 1983

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

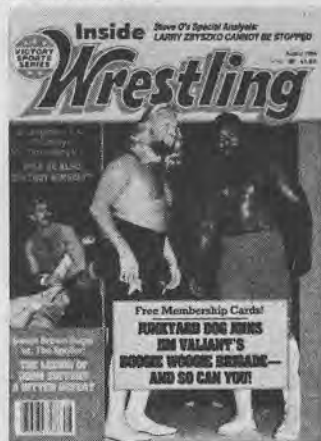
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.



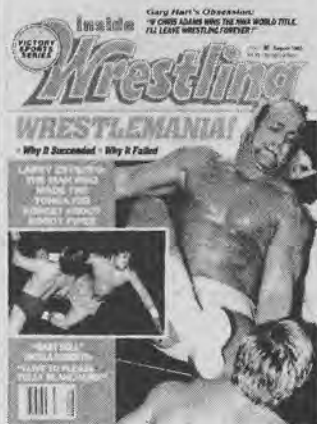
AUGUST 1984

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.



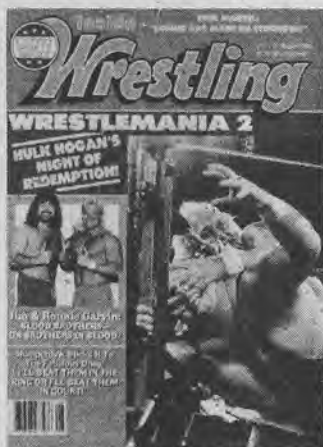
APRIL 1985

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.



AUGUST 1985

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.



AUGUST 1986

August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.



FEBRUARY 1987

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.

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THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

AN OPEN LETTER to the readers of *Inside Wrestling*:

How about opening your eyes and ears for a change?

In this journalism racket, the goal is objectivity. But we are human, and we all play favorites, whether we admit to it or not. I grew up watching the WWF. Back then, in 1973, its call letters were "WWWF" (World Wide Wrestling Federation), and televised matches aired once a week, on Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. My friends and I passed the school week in unbearable tension, talking, waiting, and wondering what new import would storm the territory.

I remember George "The Animal" Steele's return to the East Coast after a long absence. None of my friends had ever seen Steele, but, through the pages of *Inside Wrestling* and *The Wrestler*, had been well informed of his brutal cross-country journey through other federations. Each week we'd tune in and await further information. Finally, it was announced he would appear during next week's matches.

We were choked with excitement until I realized I was committed to attend a friend's bowling party the next Saturday, a party scheduled for six o'clock. (He was more of an acquaintance—a real



George "The Animal" Steele's return to the WWF was eagerly awaited by a young Eddie Ellner in 1973. Today, Ellner has no respect for Steele or his federation.

friend wouldn't have been so blubberheaded as to plan a birthday party during that time slot). I checked with the bowling alley: It had no TV. Instantly (mysteriously, according to my grandmother) I developed a raging fever and sore throat. I could not attend the party. Instead, I lay in bed with the TV on, spellbound (between fake coughs) by Steele's viciousness.

Can anyone today take George Steele seriously? Or the rest of the WWF? Don't tell me to shut up because you think Hulk Hogan is the greatest thing since Clearasil. Don't tell me how "innovative" and "brilliant" the WWF is. Unless your idea of top-rate

grappling is to watch Brutus Beefcake take his hedge clippers to the scalp of some unfortunate prelim bum, then the new WWF is for you.

... or if you think owning a pet makes wrestlers compete better.

... or if the idea of a man purchasing a world title makes your heart skip a beat.

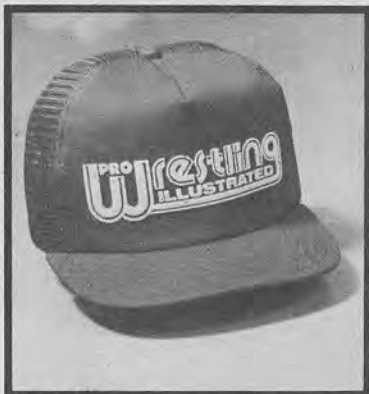
I'll never forget when the WWWF added an hour of coverage to its programming schedule. It appeared Tuesdays at 10:30 p.m. on a snowy, impossibly fuzzy UHF station. The late hour and poor reception added to the mystique and excitement.

(Continued on page 64)

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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

“FURTHERMORE, THIS UWF TV belt will catapult me to greater heights. I can smell the CWA title. I can taste the AWA crown. I can hear the adulation, the endless cheers, the slavish devotion. I see the big money, the expensive cars, the fancy restaurants. And I can feel the beautiful women, hundreds of them, all dying for a piece of me.”

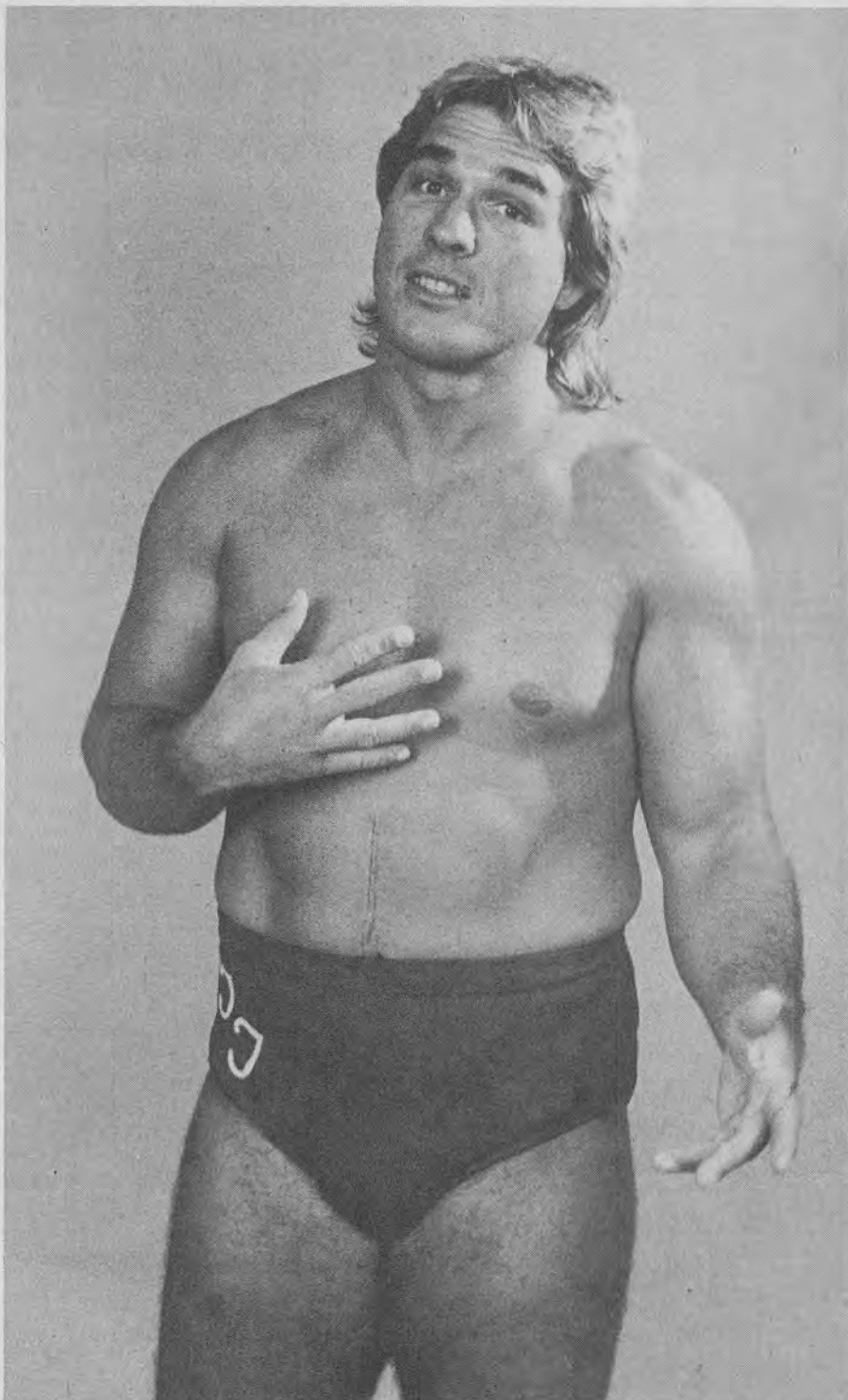
Do you know dread? For instance, have you ever been stuck on an elevator with a man smoking a cigar who refuses to put it out? I was possessed of a similar feeling while engaged in conversation with the formerly rational Terry Taylor. Some wrestlers lose sight of reality. Terry Taylor has lost not only his sight, but his other four senses as well. And as for common sense, well, read what he says and decide for yourself:

“Nikita Koloff?” Taylor grunts in a mock Russian accent. “He of big arms and small brains? He with face that looks like tumor?”

Taylor resumes his own obnoxious drawl. “Hey, babe, I’m the best there is. I’m wrestler of the year. I’m man of the year. Lover of the year. With this TV title of mine, I’m going around the world spreading Taylor gospel. What went down against Koloff I will duplicate against Lawler.

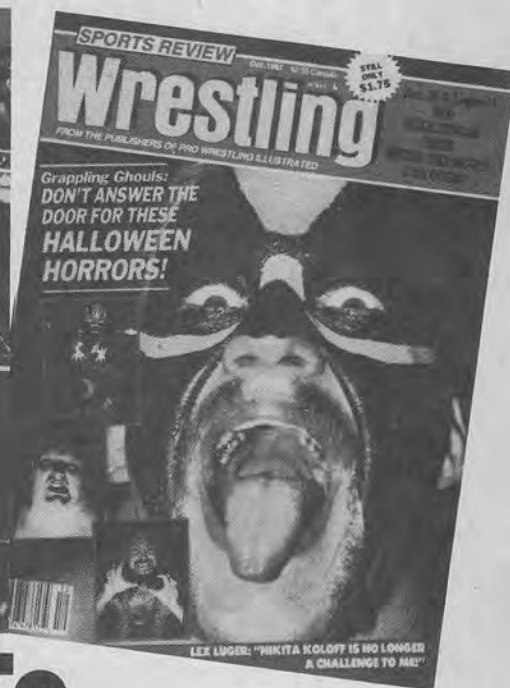
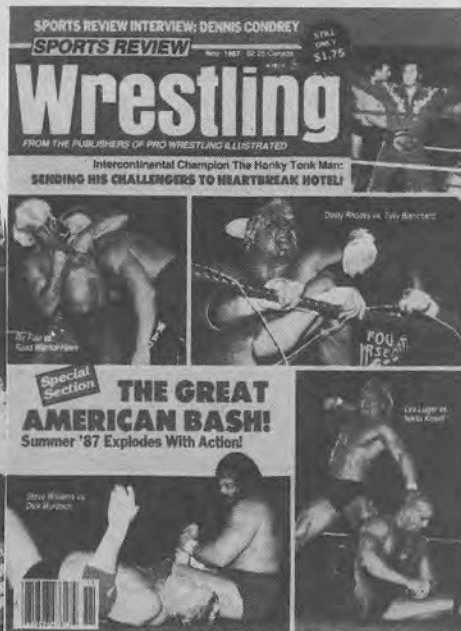
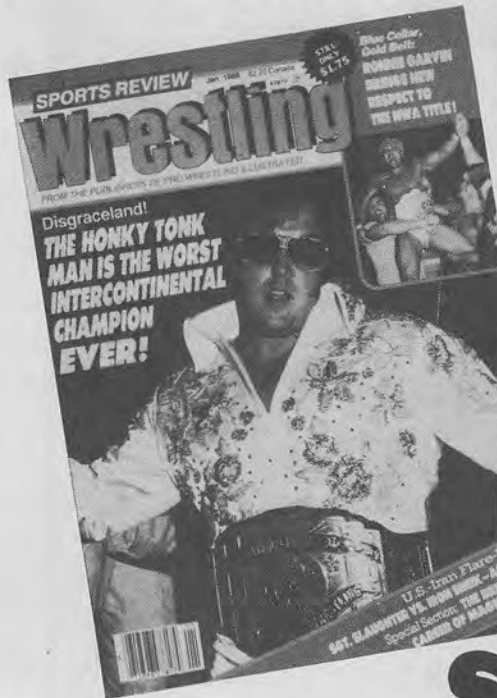
“Jerry Lawler? Mustachioed geek! Stupid swine swill. Foul pig droppings. That CWA belt will be a fine addition to my collection. I’ll wear it on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays I’ll wear the UWF TV belt. And on Saturday I’ll wear

(Continued on page 56)



Despite losing the NWA-UWF TV title unification match to Nikita Koloff, Terry Taylor still claims to be the TV champion. Furthermore, he’s making this claim in the CWA, where he hopes for an AWA title shot. Confused? So is Taylor.

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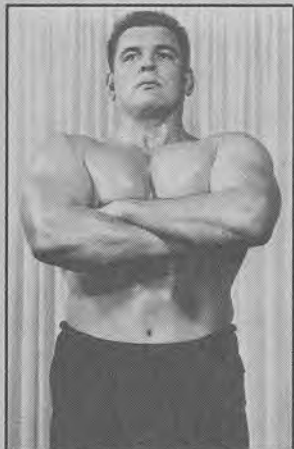
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



DR. BILL MILLER

The Miller Brothers—Danny, Ed, and Bill—were one of the toughest forces in wrestling from the late 1950s through the early 1960s. Bill is currently working as an inspector for the United States Department of Agriculture in Columbus, Ohio. He also holds a degree in veterinary medicine and teaches classes on the medical treatment of animals. "My years in wrestling prepared me well to work with animals," joked Dr. Bill.



SWEET DADDY SIKI

Siki, now well into his mid-50s, is playing occasional gigs with a country and western band in Canada while remaining an active wrestler. Though his schedule is not as grueling as it once was, Siki has been compet-

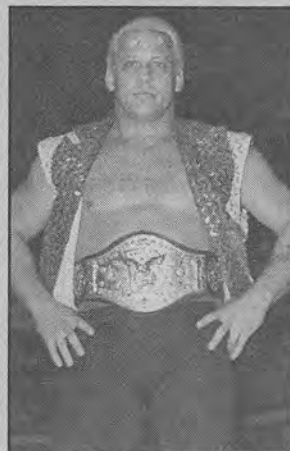
ing regularly in the Midwest and has set his sights on the World Wrestling Alliance heavyweight title. "I might be a little older, but I can beat any young guy around," boasted Siki. "I will win the title."



SUNSHINE

After a brief stint with Wild West Wrestling in Texas, where she managed The Missing Link, Sunshine left Link in the hands of his handler, Sheena, to go home to Florida for a month. Sunshine reported that she hopes to find a man

who can help her run Terry Gordy, Buddy Roberts, and Iceman Parsons out of World Class wrestling. "I've had my ups and downs with those guys. Now I'm going to get rid of them," she said.



BUDDY COLT

Colt, a beloved star in Texas, Florida, and Georgia during the 1960s and early '70s, stopped wrestling after he was involved in the plane crash that killed Bobby Shane. Last seen as co-host (with Gordon Solie) of the now-defunct

Championship Wrestling From Florida, Colt currently owns a hardware distributorship that serves retail outlets and manufacturers in Florida. "I miss wrestling, but I keep tabs on what's going on," said Colt.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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CAPSULE PROFILE

"TOUGH" IS THE word most frequently used to describe "Dr. Death" Steve Williams ... Played four years of football at Oklahoma University and was named honorable mention All-America in his junior year (*"Football and wrestling demand similar discipline"*) ... Was three-time All-America on the school's wrestling team (*"That's where I excelled"*) ... Signed a pro football contract with the USFL's New Jersey Generals, but never played a down (*"Injuries kept holding me back"*) ... Upon his return to Oklahoma, met Bill Watts, who convinced him to become a professional wrestler (*"Bill was one of my childhood idols. I was honored"*) ... Won his first pro match by defeating The Turk in Shreveport, Louisiana (*"It was the most unbelievable night of my life"*) ... Soon became one of the most hated men in the Mid-South area (*"I had some controversy with Terry Taylor"*) ... Williams and Ted DiBiase defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express for the Mid-South belts on May 3, 1985, in Houston (*"Ted and I were the most feared team in the area"*) ... On June 5, 1985, Williams received a cut above his eye that required 108 stitches, but he insisted on wrestling that same night (*"Just doing what I was paid to do"*) ... This incredible feat cemented his reputation as the toughest man in wrestling ... He and DiBiase lost the belts, turned fan favorites,

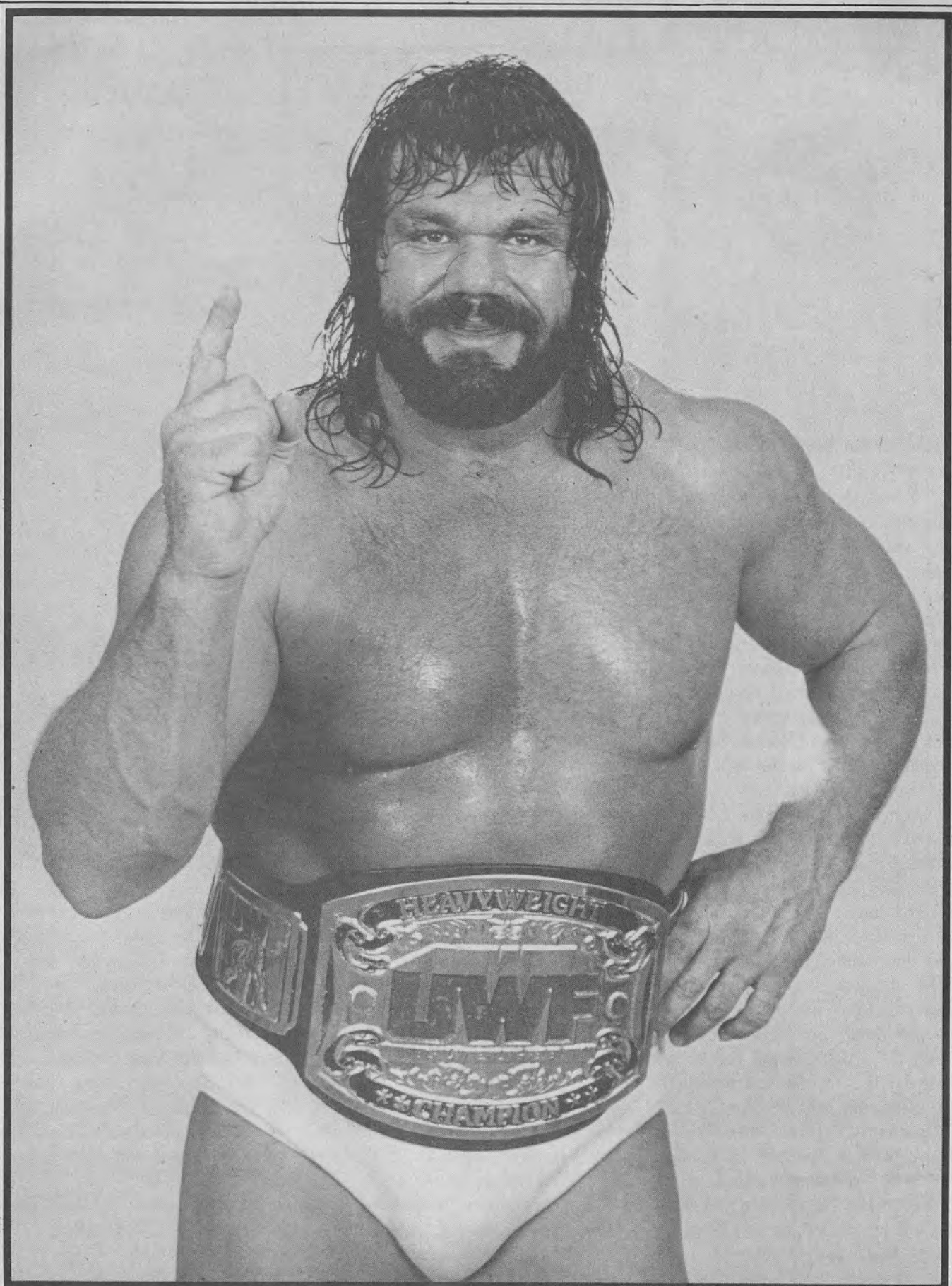
STEVE WILLIAMS



"Dr. Death" Steve Williams puts the backbreaker on Rick Steiner, who has since become his ally. Combining enormous strength with super-toughness, Williams is one of the sport's most dangerous men.

then regained the title before losing it to The Shepherders on March 16, 1986 ... He and Taylor, representing the Mid-South, reached the quarterfinals of the inaugural Crockett Cup tag team tournament (*"I always thought we should have won the thing easily"*) ... In the summer of 1986, Williams was the victim of a piledriver on the cement floor by Terry Gordy (*"That was just about the worst thing that ever happened to me physically"*) ... After spending some time in traction, came back to gain revenge on The Freebirds (*"And revenge was never sweeter"*) ... On December 12, 1986, pinned One Man Gang to win the prestigious \$50,000 Pro Wrestling Illustrated/UWF Challenge Tourna-

ment (*"Definitely one of the great moments in my career"*) ... An even greater moment came on July 11, 1987, when Williams pinned Big Bubba Rogers to win the UWF heavyweight title (*"It was the culmination of years of hard work and dedication"*) ... Defeated Western States champion Barry Windham at Starrcade '87 in what was supposed to be a scientific match but turned into a brawl (*"I did what I had to do to win"*) ... This controversial victory signaled Williams' turn back toward rulebreaking ... Currently touring Japan, Williams is looking for a unification match with NWA champion Ric Flair (*"Let's have one true world champion, once and for all"*)



"DR. DEATH" STEVE WILLIAMS

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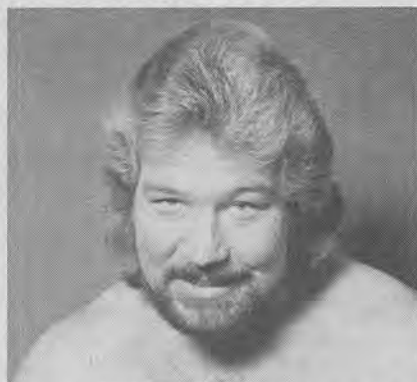
If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

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MILWAUKEE, WI By Andy Abrahamson



HULK HOGAN
vs.
TED DiBIASE



When DiBiase started putting down the fans, Hogan rammed DiBiase and Virgil's heads together. Hogan then continued to pound DiBiase with punches and headbutts. Virgil climbed to the ring apron and was knocked down by Hogan. This gave DiBiase the chance to pound the champ. Hogan came back after being in a headlock for nearly five minutes, but Virgil once again climbed to the ring apron. Hogan pounded Virgil, legdropped DiBiase, and got the three-count.

OTHER BOUTS: Bam Bam Bigelow pinned One Man Gang ... Demolition beat Billy Jack Haynes & Ken Patera ... Sam Houston defeated Danny Davis ... Magnificent Muraco beat Butch Reed ... Hacksaw Duggan pinned Harley Race ... The Glamour Girls beat The Jumping Bomb Angels ... Lanny Poffo pinned Sika.

BASSETT, VA By Steve Butler



STING
vs.
LARRY ZBYSZKO



The match started with Zbyszko using his rulebreaking tactics and Sting countering with a series of high-flying moves that sent Zbyszko reeling. Finally, Sting threw Zbyszko outside the ring and followed him out. The two men fought on the arena floor and Zbyszko tried to ram Sting into the ringpost. But Sting reversed it and rammed Zbyszko hard. With the match totally out of control, the referee called for a double-countout.

OTHER BOUTS: Kendall Windham pinned Mark Fleming ... The Italian Stallion pinned Gladiator I ... Jimmy Valiant & Ricky Santana beat The Jive Tones ... The Lightning Express defeated Black Bart & John Savage ... Ronnie Garvin & Barry Windham defeated Eddie Gilbert & Stan Lane.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN By Niles Driskell



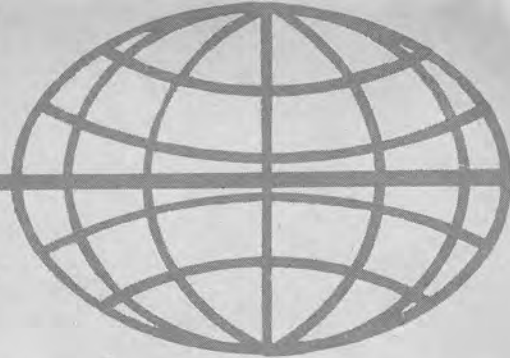
BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
vs.
GREG VALENTINE



Valentine quickly took advantage with a series of elbows and punches. He then tried for the figure-four leglock but couldn't complete the move, giving Beefcake the edge. The two archrivals began trading punches, and Valentine went for the figure-four once again. Beefcake, however, reversed it and rolled up "The Hammer" for the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Hulk Hogan pinned One Man Gang ... The Honky Tonk Man defeated Randy Savage ... The Hart Foundation beat Strike Force by disqualification ... Jim Duggan and Rick Rude battled to a 20-minute time-limit draw ... The Killer Bees dumped The Conquistadors ... The Jumping Bomb Angels & Rockin' Robin beat The Glamour Girls & Sherri Martel.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



CALGARY, ALBERTA

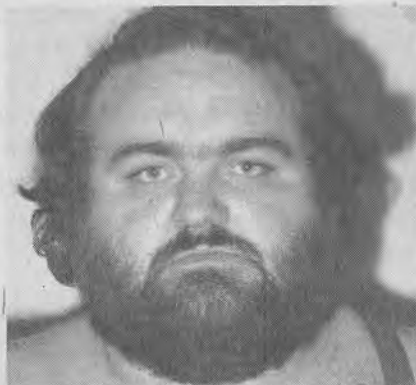
By Kerry Canuck



JASON THE TERRIBLE

vs.

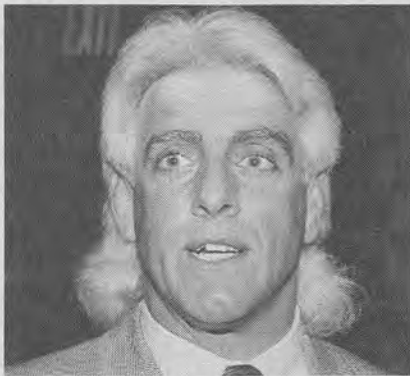
MAKHAN SINGH



Midway through the match, Singh's valet, Honey, threw a white powder into Jason's face. Singh then removed Jason's hockey mask, put it on, and rammed Jason's face into the arena wall. Singh continued to pound on Jason and bloodied him terribly. After the action returned to the ring, Jason beat up Makhan but was eventually disqualified for ramming him into the ringpost. **OTHER BOUTS:** Hashif Khan pinned Randy Thatcher ... Bad News Allen, Jerry Morrow, & Steve DiSalvo defeated Mr. Hito, Biff Wellington, & Brick Bronsky ... Garfield Portz beat Phil Lafleur ... Chris Benoit defeated Gama Singh by disqualification.

MACON, GA

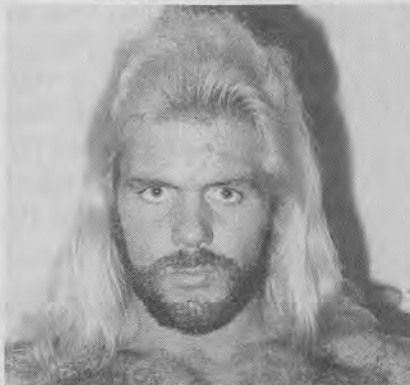
By Christopher Bridges



RIC FLAIR

vs.

MICHAEL HAYES



This match for the NWA World title started off quickly. After sizing each other up, Hayes caught Flair in a sleeperhold. Hayes had the advantage until Flair caught him with a knee to the midsection. Flair then applied a figure-four leglock, but Hayes escaped. Flair, however, continued to apply the pressure and pinned Hayes to retain the title.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors defeated Ivan Koloff & The Warlord ... Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson defeated Ronnie & Jim Garvin ... Barry Windham, filling in for Lex Luger, pinned Black Bart ... Nikita Koloff pinned Terry Taylor ... Barry Windham beat Eddie Gilbert ... Mike Rotundo pinned Ricky Santana ... Konga the Barbarian beat Kendall Windham.

SAN JUAN, PR

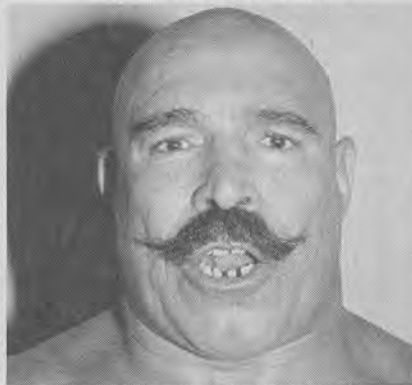
By Pablo Soto



CARLOS COLON

vs.

THE IRON SHEIK



In this match for Colon's WWC heavy-weight title, Sheik attacked Colon before the bell rang. Minutes into the match, both men were bleeding and the action went outside the ring. When the wrestlers returned, Sheik put the champion in a painful abdominal stretch. Colon escaped and applied the figure-four leglock. Suddenly, Sheik's manager, Chicky Starr, climbed to the top rope and dove on top of Colon, forcing the ref to disqualify Sheik.

OTHER BOUTS: The Invaders beat Kendo Nagasaki & Mr. Pogo ... Hercules Ayala pinned Chris Adams ... Bruiser Brody defeated Grizzly Boone ... Miguel Perez pinned Kareem Muhammad.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

FT. WORTH, TX: Out with the old, in with the new. I was down here to check out the Fritz Von Erich injury and lucked out when I stumbled upon a newcomer named Jason Sterling at a World Class show. Eric Embry, the WCCW junior heavyweight champion, wrestled Sterling in a 10-minute challenge match and vowed to play with him for five minutes and then pin him at will. After five minutes, Sterling looked pretty good, and after 10 minutes he was still standing. Naturally, Embry called it a fluke and told the kid he'd pay him \$100 for every minute up to 10 that he could last with him. Well, the kid went

another 10 minutes and Embry had to shell out the cash. By this time, Embry's ego was mortally wounded and he wasn't going to leave without getting in the last shot. After giving Sterling \$500, he dropped the next bill on the floor. Sterling, who's a good wrestler but still too naive, made the mistake of bending down to pick it up. Embry piledrived Sterling, took back the money, and left the ring. So Embry got in the last shot, but he's going to have to deal with Sterling in the very near future, unless he can avoid giving him a rematch. You know, one of the great things about this sport is that it takes care of itself. You mourn the passing of legends, but there's no need to worry because there's plenty of young talent out there to replace them. Ric Flair was once a rookie, as were Ted DiBiase and Curt Hennig. Who knows—maybe Jason Sterling will someday fill their shoes. Even if he doesn't, it's always fun watching. Sterling made this the best trip to Texas I've made in a long time. And Fritz is feeling much better, thank goodness.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN: After a month of chasing around the smaller promotions, it's back to the big time. But before I got back into the grind, I figured I'd come out here to bid farewell to a grand old dame I've known since the 1930s when I was a young boy. It broke my heart when the old Madison Square Garden closed in 1967 and when Sunnyside Gardens was reduced to rubble in the 1970s. I don't get around to ol' Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis much anymore, and I had a lump in my throat as I walked around the Minneapolis Auditorium for probably the last time. The building is closing down and, on February 4, the AWA was to run its last card here. Prior engagements preclude my presence on the fourth, I'm almost embarrassed to say, but I had to see this place one more time. A janitor let me in through a side door and it was almost dark in the arena, but I managed to find my way to the seat upstairs from where I've watched some of the great-



ERIC EMBRY

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

est stars in wrestling history. Sitting there, I looked down at the spot where the ring would've been and could almost see Verne Gagne wrestling Larry Hennig, Bruiser and Crusher winning the AWA tag belts, Hardboiled Haggerty and Len Montana doing the same. Names such as Billy Robinson, Gene Kiniski, Mr. M (a former AWA World champ), Mad Dog Vachon, Dr. X, Killer Kowalski, Moose Evans, Bronko Nagurski, and Ray Steele came pouring back into my mind, the men who cultivated my interest in this great sport. Soon, all the old buildings will be gone. It seems as if Boston Garden and The Sportatorium in Dallas are the only ones left. Even The Olympic in Los Angeles, which I thought would be around forever, is only a memory. Now the Minneapolis Auditorium. Goodbye, old friend.

UNIONDALE, NY: The NWA held its first Nassau Coliseum show the day before Thanksgiving and drew a crowd of approximately 13,000. They returned on Sunday night, January 24, for the finals of The Bunkhouse Stampede and their first-ever unopposed shot at pay-per-view (that is if you consider the "Royal Rumble," courtesy of the WWF on USA cable at the same time, "unopposed"). Just the facts, draw your own conclusions: There were about 6,000 fans in the 17,000-seat arena; the card started at 6:30 p.m., although the tickets said 7:00 p.m. and some even said 8:00; the card ended just before 9:00, meaning that those who showed up at the 7:00 scheduled starting time saw less than two hours of wrestling for their money; the crowd was almost dead silent when Dusty Rhodes won The Bunkhouse Stampede for the third straight year by tossing The Warlord over the top of the cage. Silent until some started chanting "Refund! Refund!" and then booed loudly when it became apparent that the Bunkhouse was the final match of the evening. From what people tell me, the card wasn't advertised in any of the daily newspapers, so it was amazing that so many people actually managed to show up. There's no doubt that the NWA has the highest quality of wrestling in the United States, but serious mistakes are being made. This should've been one of the

greatest NWA cards ever, but instead people will remember January 24, 1988, as the day of the Royal Rumble, which was broadcast live from Hamilton, Ontario. I wished I was there. It's been a long time since I've wished I was at a WWF card instead of an NWA card.

NEW YORK, NY: So the next night I'm in Madison Square Garden to see Hulk Hogan and Bam Bam Bigelow against Ted DiBiase and bodyguard Virgil with Andre the Giant in the corner. The current situation in the WWF is an absolute disgrace:

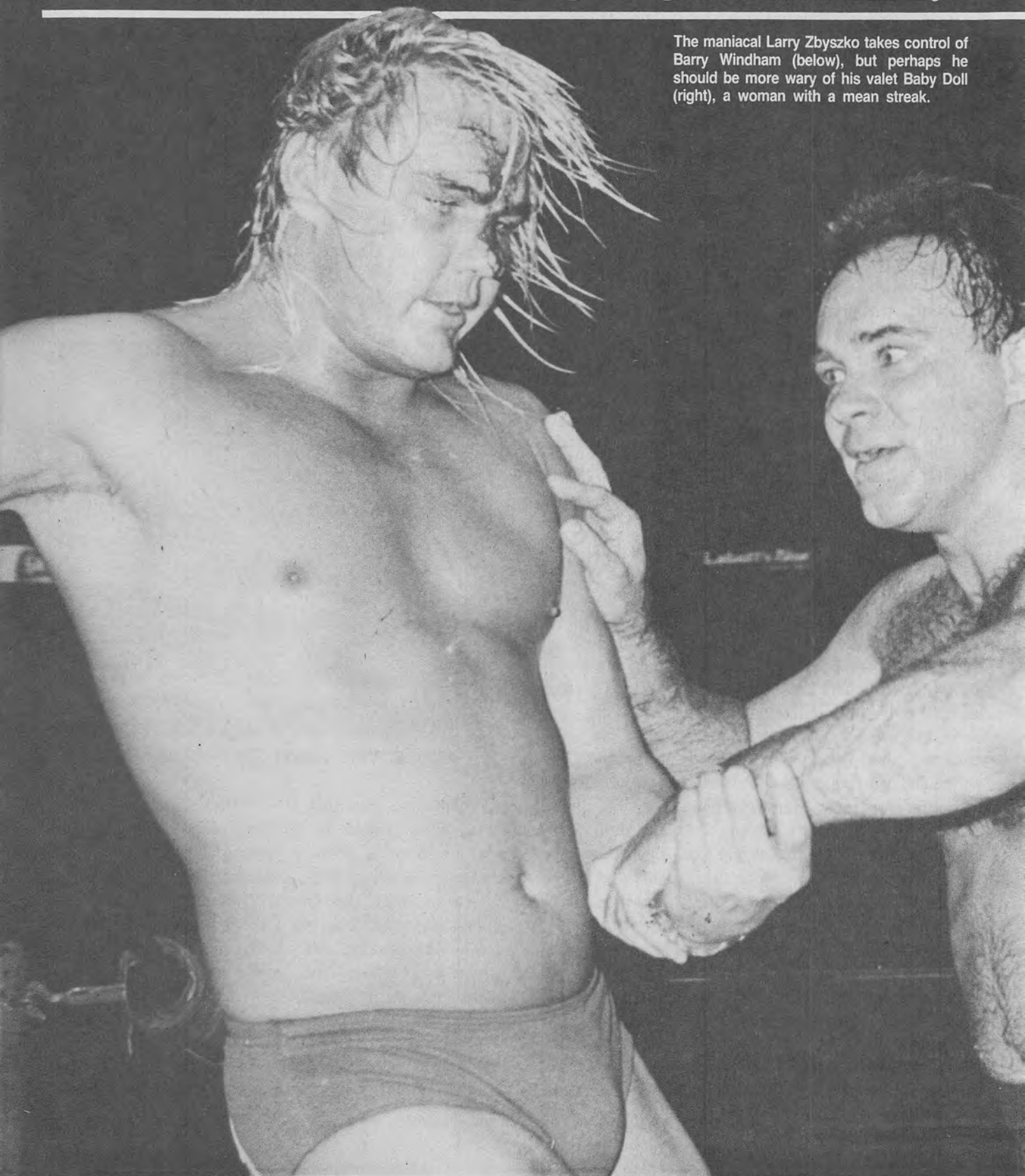


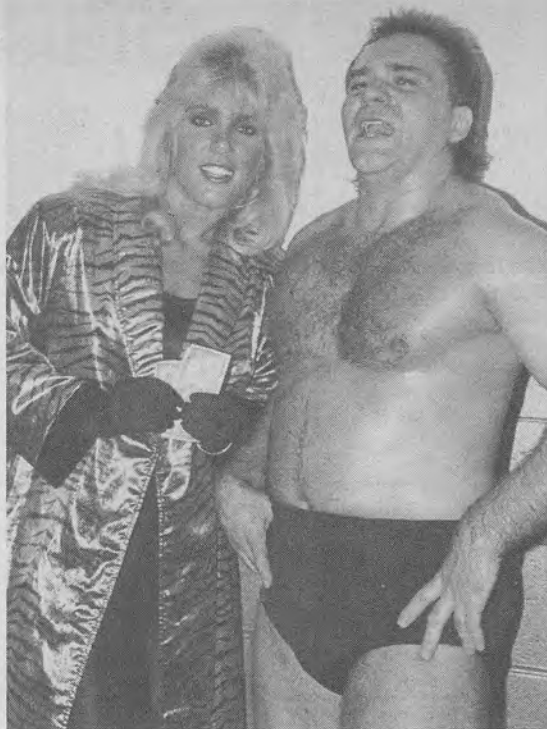
ANDRE THE GIANT VS. HULK HOGAN

There's no way that WWF President Jack Tunney can allow people to buy and sell the title, but he's doing nothing about it! Regardless, Hogan vs. Andre and DiBiase is the hottest feud in wrestling right now, though the Garden was not sold out. The match wasn't bad, but I spent most of the evening watching Andre, who looks like he's been brain-washed. Once a kind, gentle man, he now has an evil look in his eyes, a monster turned loose. I'm not sure what kind of violence he's capable of, but he obviously has it in him to rip another man to shreds. How did he get this way? Did he always have it in him? Or is he just bitter? I feel sorry for him. □

Forget About Barry Windham. . . **IT'S BABY DOLL WHO'LL CAUSE LARRY ZBYSZKO'S DOWNFALL!**

The maniacal Larry Zbyszko takes control of Barry Windham (below), but perhaps he should be more wary of his valet Baby Doll (right), a woman with a mean streak.





Larry Zbyszko is feuding wildly with Barry Windham, but the tall Texan is just the most obvious threat to his career.

Zbyszko's most dangerous foe may come in the more subtle and secretive form of his own valet—Baby Doll!

GINO HERNANDEZ LIVED and died with nightmares of her face. Dusty Rhodes quickly goes silent when someone mentions her name. Tully Blanchard, a man who prides himself on his intelligence, wonders aloud how he could ever have been so stupid. Ric Flair calls her "the worst mistake I ever almost made."

"She seems so sweet at first," said Magnum T.A., who always managed to resist her allure. "She has blonde hair, blue eyes, real all-American looks, and a very pleasant demeanor. She makes a great first impression."

But when it comes to Baby Doll, the road to hell is paved with first impressions. And although she came to Larry Zbyszko with good intentions, history says that this sadistic madman must beware of a woman even more evil than himself.

Barry Windham is Zbyszko's fiercest rival, but Baby Doll will cause his downfall.

"It's after that first impression, when she's got you in her grasp, that the trouble really begins," continued Magnum. "When she was Dusty's valet back in 1986, everybody criticized me for keeping my distance from her and never approving of their relationship. The thing is, I knew her past and I knew how Dusty trusted her. Man, he was falling all over her, and I can tell evil when I see it."

Magnum knows what history has shown to be true: Baby Doll *does* make a great first impression. She has no trouble getting a job. Keeping that job, however, is another story—one that has been told by Hernandez, Blanchard, Rhodes, Flair, and even Mama Cornette, who went against her son's advice and hired Baby Doll in late 1986. Shortly afterward, Baby Doll walked out on her, too.

"She's the classic case of an unstable personality," said noted psychologist Dr. Sidney M. Basil, an occasional contributor to *Inside Wrestling*. "She can't maintain a relationship for more than a few months at a time. She can't deal with the idea of a commitment. Baby Doll is also very untrustworthy."

(Continued on page 50)

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 8— AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL | 12— BAM BAM BIGELOW
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ |
| 2— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 5— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 9— JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN | 13— CHRIS ADAMS
228, Stratford, England |
| 3— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 6— CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN | 10— OWEN HART
223, Calgary, Alberta | 14— GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN |
| | 7— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 11— STING
270, Venice Beach, CA | 15— KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX |

NWA

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 8— BOBBY EATON
233, Huntsville, AL | 12— ROAD WARRIOR HAWK
283, Chicago, IL |
| 2— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 5— STING
270, Venice Beach, CA | 9— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 13— JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL |
| 3— STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK | 6— LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA | 10— STAN LANE
225, Myrtle Beach, SC | 14— MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY |
| | 7— BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX | 11— RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec | 15— KEVIN SULLIVAN
252, Boston, MA |

AWA

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1— CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN | 4— WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX | 8— BOB ORTON JR.
282, St. Louis, MO | 12— BARON VON RASCHKE
245, St. Joseph, MO |
| 2— GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN | 5— KEVIN KELLY
271, Oakland, CA | 9— NICK KINISKI
220, Edmonton, Alberta | 13— BILLY JACK STRONG
245, Nashville, TN |
| 3— TOM ZENK
237, Robbinsdale, MN | 6— ADRIAN ADONIS
312, New York, NY | 10— NORD THE BARBARIAN
316, Bozeman, MT | 14— MITCH SNOW
220, Mooresville, NC |
| | 7— JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN | 11— SOLDAT USTINOV
265, Moscow, Russia | 15— ALAN WEST
251, Zuma Beach, CA |

WWF

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 4— TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE | 8— RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI | 12— HERCULES HERNANDEZ
275, Tampa, FL |
| 2— THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN | 5— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 9— RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN | 13— HARLEY RACE
258, Kansas City, MO |
| 3— ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France | 6— BAM BAM BIGELOW
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ | 10— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY | 14— BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
273, San Francisco, CA |
| | 7— HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY | 11— ONE MAN GANG
468, Chicago, IL | 15— GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 4— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 8— BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX | 12— RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI |
| 2— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 5— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 9— HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY | 13— OWEN HART
223, Calgary, Alberta |
| 3— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 6— STING
270, Venice Beach, CA | 10— JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN | 14— JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA |
| | 7— KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX | 11— BAM BAM BIGELOW
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ | 15— TOM ZENK
237, Robbinsdale, MN |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1— ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France | 4— THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN | 8— ARN ANDERSON
249, Minneapolis, MN | 12— ADRIAN ADONIS
312, New York, NY |
| 2— TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE | 5— LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA | 9— TERRY GORDY
289, Chattanooga, TN | 13— HERCULES HERNANDEZ
275, Tampa, FL |
| 3— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis | 6— TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX | 10— RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN | 14— KEVIN KELLY
271, Oakland, CA |
| | 7— CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN | 11— AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL | 15— MAKHAN SINGH
380, Saginaw, MI |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1— THE ROAD WARRIORS
No. 1 contenders: NWA World tag team title | 6— THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS
AWA World tag team champions | 11— JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY
Wild West & WCCW Texas tag team champions |
| 2— TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON
NWA World tag team champions | 7— THE ISLANDERS
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title | 12— THE WARLORD & KONGA THE BARBARIAN
No. 4 contenders: NWA World tag team title |
| 3— RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA
WWF World tag team champions | 8— THE BRITISH BULLDOGS
No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag team title | 13— ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN
Southeast Continental tag team champions |
| 4— BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE
U.S. tag team champions | 9— KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH
World Class tag team champions | 14— KEVIN KELLY & NICK KINISKI
No. 1 contenders: AWA World tag team title |
| 5— BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title | 10— BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN
Stampede International tag team champions | 15— THE SHEEPHERDERS
No. 3 contenders to NWA World tag team title |

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended January 28, 1988

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

- ACCW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JACK ARMSTRONG**
(December 12, 1987; from Victor Rivera; Hawaiian Gardens, CA)
- ACCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MERCENARIES**
(December 12, 1987; from Peter Maivia Jr. & Prof. Tanaka; Hawaiian Gardens, CA)
- * **ALABAMA CHAMPION: JONATHAN BOYD**
(January 4, 1988; from Tom Pritchard; Birmingham, AL)
- ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TAKASHI ISHIKAWA & MIGHTY INOUE**
(July 30, 1987; tournament final over Isamu Teranishi & Masanobu Kurusu; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**
(October 21, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS**
(March 12, 1987; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Genichiro Tenryu; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI**
(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYU**
(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)
- ALL-PACIFIC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CHIGUSA NAGOYO**
(April 27, 1987; from Lelani Kai; Osaka, Japan)
- AWA TV CHAMPION: GREG GAGNE**
(December 27, 1987; tournament final over Adrian Adonis; Las Vegas, NV)
- AWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MADUSA MICELI**
(December 27, 1987; tournament final over Candi Divine; Las Vegas, NV)
- AWA WORLD CHAMPION: CURT HENNIG**
(May 2, 1987; from Nick Bockwinkel; San Francisco, CA)
- AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
(December 27, 1987; from Dennis Condry & Randy Rose; Las Vegas, NV)
- BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: GAMA SINGH**
(August 7, 1987; from Owen Hart; Calgary, Alberta)
- CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: D.J. PETERSON**
(December 25, 1987; from Bulldog Bob Brown; St. Joseph, MO)
- CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK PATTERSON & MIKE STONE**
(November 26, 1987; from Rick McCord & Porkchop Cash; Kansas City, KS)
- CENTRAL STATES TELEVISION CHAMPION: MASA CHONO**
(January 1, 1988; from Mike George; Des Moines, IA)
- CWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**
(December 7, 1987; round-robin tournament final over Jeff Jarrett & Manny Fernandez; Memphis, TN)
- CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by The Midnight Rockers)
- FLORIDA CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO**
(April 18, 1987; from Sir Oliver Humperdink; Lakeland, FL)
- INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING GRAND PRIX CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI**
(June 19, 1986; tournament final over Dick Murdoch; Tokyo, Japan)
- * **IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KENGO KIMURA & TATSUMI FUJINAMI**
(January 18, 1988; from Yoshiaki Fujiwara & Kazuo Yamazaki; Tokyo, Japan)
- IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HIRO HASE**
(December 27, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo, Japan)
- JAPANESE WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CHIGUSA NAGOYO**
(October 20, 1987; from Yukari Otori; Tokyo, Japan)
- * **JAPANESE WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP**
(January 15, 1988; most recently held by Bull Nakano & Kador Saito)
- NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NELSON ROYAL**
(October 16, 1987; by NWA decision)
- NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS & DUSTY RHODES**
(May 17, 1986; from Ivan & Nikita Koloff & Baron Von Raschke; Baltimore)
- NWA TV CHAMPION: NIKITA KOLOFF**
(August 17, 1987; from Tully Blanchard; Fayetteville, NC)
- NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR**
(November 26, 1987; from Ronnie Garvin; Chicago, IL)
- NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
(September 29, 1987; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Misenheimer, NC)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: THE GRAPPLER**
(October 31, 1987; from Mike Miller; Portland, OR)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SCOTT PETERSON & STEVE DOLL**
(November 7, 1987; from Joey Jackson & Super Ninja; Portland, OR)
- PWF CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN**
(April 24, 1987; tournament final over Hiroshi Wajima; Yokohama, Japan)
- PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GENICHIRO TENRYU & ASHURA HARA**
(September 3, 1987; from Stan Hansen & Austin Idol; Nagoya, Japan)
- SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: LORD HUMONGOUS**
(December 25, 1987; from Dan Davis; Knoxville, TN)
- SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: DUTCH MANTEL**
(April 13, 1987; from Adrian Street; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN**
(May 25, 1987; from Jerry Stubbs & Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LARRY HAMILTON**
(September 7, 1987; from Scott Armstrong; Birmingham, AL)
- STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: OWEN HART**
(April 10, 1987; from Makhan Singh; Calgary, Alberta)
- STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN**
(November 13, 1987; from Makhan Singh & Jerry Morrow; Calgary, Alberta)
- TENNESSEE HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: DOUG FURNAS**
(July 17, 1987; tournament final over Tony Anthony; Knoxville, TN)
- U.S. CHAMPION: DUSTY RHODES**
(November 26, 1987; from Lex Luger; Greensboro, NC)
- U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
(May 16, 1987; tournament final over Barry Windham & Ronnie Garvin)
- UWA CANADIAN CHAMPION: JOHN TENTA**
(November 28, 1987; from J.R. Bundy; Cloverdale, British Columbia)
- UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Diamond Timothy Flowers)
- * **UWA INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: I-TON & DORY SINGH**
(January 3, 1988; from Frog & Atomic Kid; Cloverdale, British Columbia)
- UWA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CHAMPION: IRON MAIDEN**
(October 13, 1987; from Delta Dawn; Cloverdale, British Columbia)
- * **UWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RICK DAVIS**
(January 8, 1988; from Verne Siebert; Cloverdale, British Columbia)
- UWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: STEVE WILLIAMS**
(July 11, 1987; from Big Bubba Rogers; Oklahoma City)
- * **WESTERN STATES CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSKO**
(January 24, 1988; from Barry Windham; Uniondale, NY)
- WILD WEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY**
(November 30, 1987; tournament final over Missing Link & Jeff Raitz; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: AL PEREZ**
(October 26, 1987; by World Class officials' decision)
- WORLD CLASS JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY**
(December 25, 1987; from Shaun Simpson; Dallas, TX)
- * **WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS: TERRY GORDY, BUDDY ROBERTS, & ICEMAN PARSONS**
(January 4, 1988; from Matt Borne, Steve Simpson, & Chris Adams; Borne substituting for Kevin Von Erich; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH**
(November 25, 1987; from Brian Adias & Frank Lancaster; Shreveport, LA)
- WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS**
(May 22, 1987; reinstated by World Class officials)
- WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: MATT BORNE**
(November 10, 1987; from Ted Arcidi; Midland, TX)
- * **WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY**
(January 4, 1988; from Skip Young & Tony Atlas; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WORLD PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUPERFLY TUI**
(April 11, 1987; from Super Machine I; Honolulu, HI)
- WORLD PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FARMER BOY IPO & LEROY BROWN**
(August 9, 1986; from Mad Max & Super Max; Honolulu, HI)
- * **WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MIKE GEORGE**
(January 23, 1988; tournament final over Dick Slater; Kansas City, KS)
- WORLD WRESTLING ASSOCIATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: GREG WOJOKOWSKI**
(May 3, 1987; from Scott Rexsteiner; Toledo, Ohio)
- WORLD WRESTLING ASSOCIATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Don Kent & Chris Carter)
- WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS & MARK YOUNGBLOOD**
(December 12, 1987; from Samoans Fatu & Samu; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)
- * **WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HURRICANE CASTILLO**
(January 5, 1988; from El Gran Mendoza; Mayaguez, Puerto Rico)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: MIGUEL PEREZ JR.**
(December 12, 1987; from TNT; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)
- WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: KAREEM MUHAMMAD**
(June 6, 1987; from Mighty Igor; Juaynabo, Puerto Rico)
- * **WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE INVADERS**
(January 6, 1988; from Mr. Pogo & Kendo Nagasaki; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON**
(September 20, 1987; from Hercules Ayala; Ponce, Puerto Rico)
- WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER**
(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad)
- WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE HONKY TONK MAN**
(June 2, 1987; from Rick Steamboat; Buffalo, NY)
- WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN**
(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York, NY)
- WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA**
(October 27, 1987; The Hart Foundation; Syracuse, NY)
- WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SHERRI MARTEL**
(July 24, 1987; from The Fabulous Moolah; Houston, TX)
- * **WWF WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE JUMPING BOMB ANGELS**
(January 24, 1988; from Lelani Kai & Judy Martin; Hamilton, Ontario)



Ted DiBiase's attempt to buy the WWF World title from Hulk Hogan or Andre the Giant might be only the beginning of "The Million-Dollar Man's" devious plans. A report commissioned by *Inside Wrestling* indicates that DiBiase might try to buy the entire federation!

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Stu Saks rushed into the main editorial office of *Inside Wrestling*. Saks was over an hour late for work, but he was out of breath and his face was flushed, so it was obvious that he had a good reason for his tardiness. The harried editor opened up his bulging briefcase, took out a thick sheaf of papers, and threw it on the desk of Managing Editor Craig Peters.

The wheels of power were turning.

"I just got the report back from our financial analysts," said Saks. A few weeks earlier, Saks informed the staff that he had hired a team of financial

analysts to look into the reported assets of Ted DiBiase. A story in the April 1988 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* reported on how DiBiase gained his fortune, and Saks wanted to dig deeper and learn more.

"I only had a chance to glance over them quickly while I took the train back from the city," Saks continued, "but I think we'll find the rest of the report as intriguing as what I read. They confirmed that, if the figures our source supplied are accurate, DiBiase is a wealthier man than Vince McMahon Jr. and Hulk Hogan combined. I don't think I have to tell you what this

means."

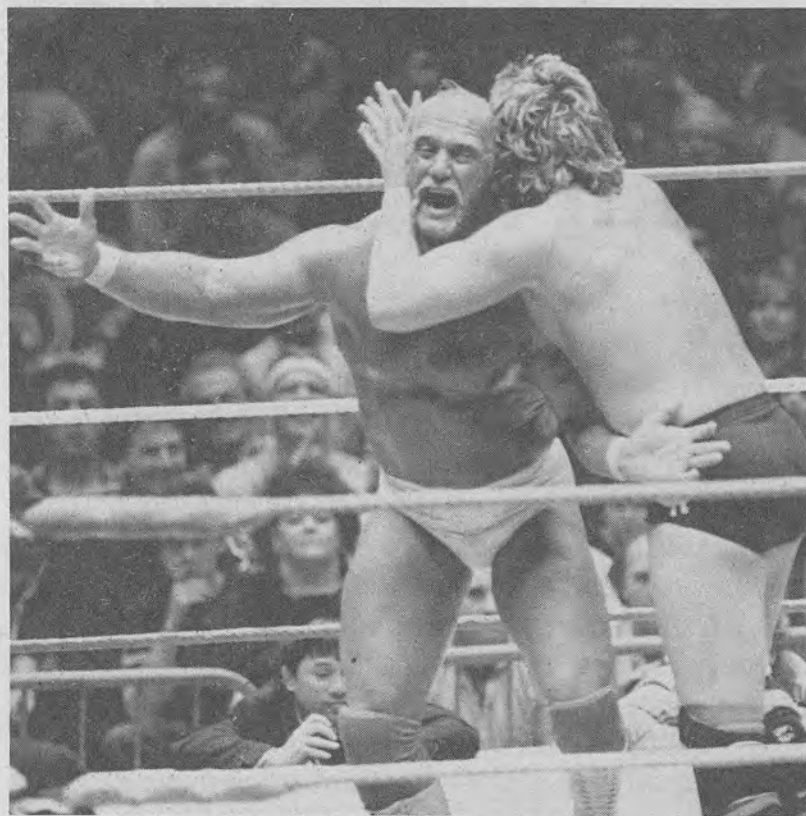
Saks stopped talking. The room fell silent, partly in shock and partly in deference to Saks' lofty position. Finally, Senior Editor Bill Apter said the obvious: "If what they're saying is true, then DiBiase has the potential to do anything he wants to do as far as the WWF is concerned!"

"That's correct, Bill," said Saks. "The cold hard truth of the matter is that money is power. When DiBiase first came to the WWF, it seemed like he was simply a very rich man, but now it looks like he's one of the rich-

(Continued on page 52)

Million-Dollar Middleman:

THE FUTURE OF THE WWF IS IN TED DiBIASE'S HANDS!



"Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase clotheslines Hulk Hogan (opposite page) and corrals him with a side headlock (above). If DiBiase does what he's capable of doing, his control over Hogan will be more than physical.





ROAD WARRIORS VS. WARLORD & BARBARIAN

Preview & Analysis Of A Violent Feud

***F**OR THE PAST five years, The Road Warriors have been regarded as the two strongest men in the entire sport. Their massive physiques have been their trademark ticket to glory, with few wrestlers daring to challenge their strength—either in the gym or in the ring.*

But the Warriors are now on the receiving end of a most unlikely challenge.

On a WTBS interview four days before Christmas, Warrior manager Paul Ellering found himself interrupted by Paul Jones. Jones stated that Konga the Barbarian and The Warlord were the strongest men in wrestling today, and challenged the Warriors to any test of strength they could name.

*Ellering's first response was laughter. Then Jones played his trump card, offering \$25,000 in prize money for a winner-take-all bench-press contest. No, replied Ellering; Jones upped his offer to \$50,000. Ellering agreed, and a contest was set for Greensboro, North Carolina, on January 30. No matter what the results of that contest, a lengthy feud between these teams appears inevitable. In this special feature, *Inside Wrestling* takes a close look at how these four massive individuals stack up—in the ring and in the gym.*

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

THE ROAD WARRIORS: Hawk stands 6'3" and weighs 270 pounds; Animal checks in at 6'1" and 285 . . . Animal holds a slight edge in power, while Hawk is the faster and more agile of the duo . . . Animal's personal best of 630 pounds on the bench press and Hawk's 585-pound lift rank them as two of the strongest men in the world . . . Few doubt that, if Hawk and Animal dedicated themselves to full-time training, they could challenge Ted Arcidi's world record 705½-pound bench press . . . The fact that the Warriors remain at such a high level of conditioning while wrestling a heavy schedule attests to their great natural talent.

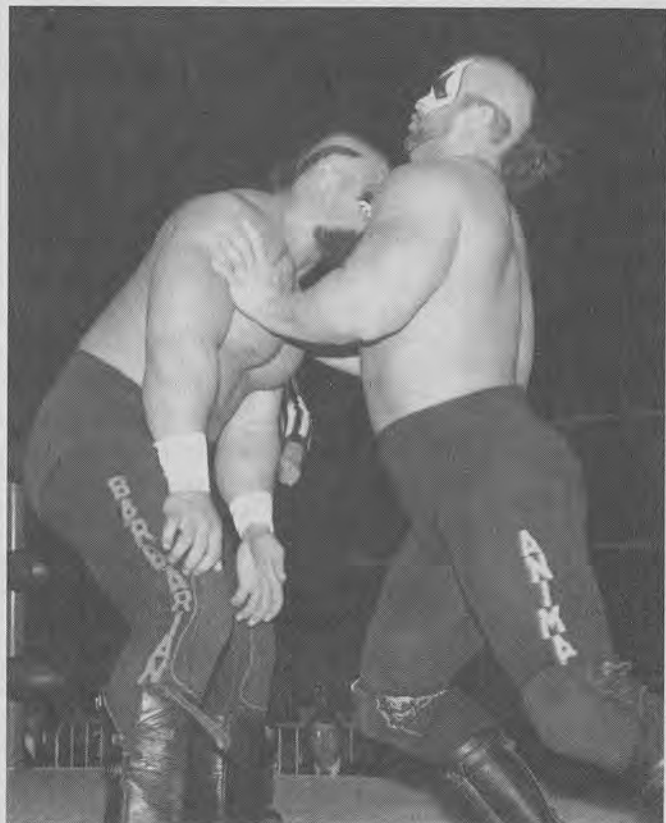
BARBARIAN & WARLORD: The Warlord, a 6'5," 350-pound behemoth, is one of the most massively muscled men in the sport . . . Konga the Barbarian is a 6'5", 295-pound bundle of power who, like Hawk, can execute dropkicks and flying bodypresses . . . Barbarian and Warlord have stepped up an already tough exercise regimen in preparation for the Warrior confrontations . . . Jones has claimed that each of his men has exceeded 700-pound lifts in private workouts; none of the workouts have been public, as Jones refuses to allow it.

TEAMWORK

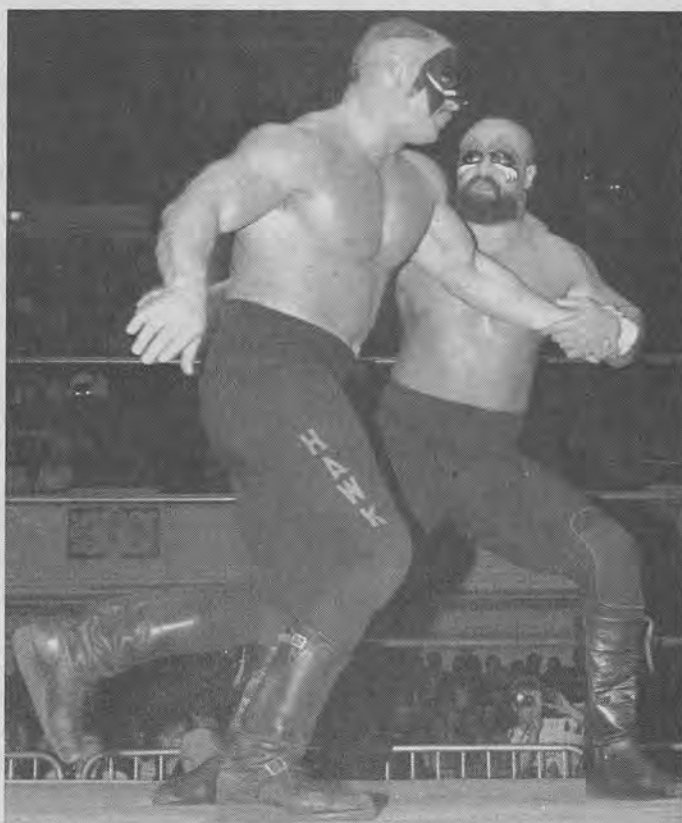
THE ROAD WARRIORS: Have teamed together through virtually their entire five-year career . . . Three-time Tag Team of the Year . . . Use power moves in tandem more effectively than any team in the sport's history . . . Remain fresh throughout matches by making tags an average of one every 45 seconds . . . Are best friends in and out of the arena . . . Moves such as the combination bearhug/clothesline have seriously injured some teams and intimidated others from signing to meet them.

BARBARIAN & WARLORD: Have only begun teaming in the last few months . . . Feuded violently last year, and might still lack the trust that successful tag teams require . . . Have been working with Jones on double-team power moves, but have not revealed any prior to this series . . . Often burn themselves out early in matches, but have begun to make quicker tags to alleviate that problem . . . Lack of quality teamwork often finds one or the other double-teamed . . . This factor is somewhat offset by Jones' frequent and well-timed interference.

(Continued on page 55)



Animal pushes Barbarian



Barbarian Irish-whips Hawk

HOTSEAT

FRITZ VON ERICH

"THEY'VE BROKEN MY BODY, BUT NOT MY SPIRIT!"

FRITZ VON ERICH, the patriarch of the world-famous Von Erich family, has been beaten, bruised, and nearly crippled on several occasions. But he's always managed to walk out of the arena on his own power—until Christmas 1987. On this most festive of family holidays, Kevin and Kerry Von Erich couldn't save their father from a brutal attack by Terry Gordy, Buddy Roberts, Iceman Parsons, and The Angel of Death at Reunion Arena in Dallas.

Kerry was scheduled to wrestle World Class champion Al Perez, with Fritz and Perez's manager, Gary Hart, handcuffed to each other at ringside. Before the match, Gordy came to the ring to challenge the winner. Gordy made several disparaging remarks about Kerry's 1986 motorcycle accident and the two began fighting. But this was merely a smokescreen for Parsons, Roberts, and Angel, who handcuffed Fritz to the ropes and brutally attacked him.

Kevin ran out to help his father, and the attackers fled the ring. Kevin and Kerry carried Fritz back to the dressing room. Barely out of the ring, however, Fritz collapsed. He was carried off on a stretcher, rushed to Baylor University Medical Center, and placed in intensive

care. Fritz was released two days later, but his condition worsened at home. At press time, Fritz was partially paralyzed, though the extent of the paralysis was unknown.

Inside Wrestling Senior Editor Bill Apter flew to Fritz's home in Denton, Texas, to talk with Fritz—in remarkably good spirits—about the attack.

“

**I'm still a strong,
determined man who
believes in fighting his own
battles and sticking up for
what's right. The good Lord
put us on this earth to fight
evil.**

”

Q: Fritz, it almost breaks my heart to see you sitting here like this. I've seen you wrestle hundreds of times, and my image of you will always be of a strong, determined man, a former AWA World champion, and one of the greatest wrestlers of all time.

A: Thank you, Bill, and I want to reassure you that although I've

gotten a little older, I'm still a strong, determined man who believes in fighting his own battles and sticking up for what's right. The good Lord put us on this earth to fight evil, and although those Freebirds might've broken my body, they haven't broken my spirit. When I recover—and I guarantee you that I will—they're in for plenty of trouble.

Q: What were you thinking when Terry Gordy came to the ring with Buddy Roberts, Iceman Parsons, and The Angel of Death? Did you have any idea that they planned to attack you?

A: Well, Bill, I'm still not sure *what* they were thinking when they came to the ring. You know, men like The Freebirds are very devious and usually plan out their evil, but I have an idea that Gordy just came out to taunt my son; when they started fighting, the other three took advantage of the opportunity to get me. You know, I'm still the target of a lot of people around here just because I've been around for so long and I'm the father of Kerry and Kevin. People figure that the best way to get back at Kerry and Kevin is to do some-





Fritz Von Erich is comforted by his sons Kevin and Kerry after being brutally attacked by The Freebirds on Christmas night. Fritz says the closeness of his family helped him get through the days he spent in the hospital.

“

I'm the target of a lot of people around here just because I've been around for so long and I'm the father of Kerry and Kevin.

”

thing to me. But I've never been the type to back down. If they want a piece of me, all they have to do is come and get me.

Q: Which they did. In my opinion, The Freebirds' attack on you Christmas Day was one of the most sickening, cowardly, and vile attacks I've ever seen. I saw the tape afterward and almost vomited; I would've liked to spit on The Freebirds for what they did. How can four young men sink so low as to attack one of the most respected men in this sport?

A: Bill, you're gonna have to ask them that question. All I can say is that those four have a history of that type of behavior, so it shouldn't've come as a surprise to anybody. Besides, I can't say that I haven't been the victim of this type of attack before, it's just that it always happened when I was more prepared to defend myself. I expected to spend the evening hand-

cuffed to Gary Hart, and I didn't see what could happen with us handcuffed together. I wasn't prepared to wrestle and I wasn't prepared for an attack—which was probably my own fault, because I've always made it a point to be prepared for *anything*. And, by the way, Kerry is convinced that Hart was behind the attack, and that wouldn't surprise me at all. Hart is an evil man and he makes no secret of his hatred for me. He just stood there and enjoyed every minute of it.

Q: Probably the scariest moment of the evening came when Kevin and Kerry helped you back to the dressing room and you collapsed barely out of the ring. What were you thinking at the time?

A: In all honesty, I wasn't thinking anything; I was practically unconscious. I heard that several people thought I had a heart attack, but that was totally untrue. I've never had a heart attack, but I have an idea what one might feel like. The only way I can describe it is to say that I felt nothing. I felt numb, no pain or anything. That's why I couldn't walk and I was in a bit of a daze. In fact, I don't even remember being in the ambulance or going into the hospital. The last thing I remember is being handcuffed to the ropes. Next thing I

knew, I was in intensive care with Kevin and Kerry standing over me. I said to Kerry, "How'd you do against Perez?" and he said to me, "I haven't wrestled yet. I came here with you." Well, I said to him, "You'd better get going, young fella. You've got a match to wrestle."

Q: As it turned out, Kerry would've been better off staying with you. He said he wasn't into his wrestling, that he couldn't keep his mind on his match because he was too concerned about you.

A: Yes, and it's a great thing, Bill, to have people care about you. You know, one thing I have to thank the good Lord for is having all these people who care about myself, Doris, and all the boys. I think that comes from the caring the family has within itself. I don't blame Kerry for not being able to wrestle his best, because if it was me in the ring and Kerry in the hospital, I don't think I could've wrestled, either. The thing is, Kerry felt that he was duty-bound, to the family, to himself, and most of all to the fans to wrestle that night, even if it was after midnight. You know, that title shot was a gift from Kevin. Besides, I wasn't going anywhere, and Kevin was there for me with Doris.

Q: How'd you feel when you finally

came to?

A: Very tired, but not as bad as you'd expect after going through an ordeal like that. The doctors quickly dispelled any fears that I had a heart attack, and for a while it looked like I only suffered minor injuries to my neck, back, arms, and legs, but nothing terribly serious. When they told me that they carried me out of the arena on a stretcher, I wasn't too pleased. That's never happened to me before. But let's face it, the odds were against me, especially since Kerry was tied up with Gordy, and Kevin was back in the dressing room taking a shower. You know, it's funny how fast news carries in a wrestling arena. Kevin got word immediately that I was getting attacked and people tell me they've never seen a guy get dressed so fast.

Q: Let's jump ahead two days, when you were released from the hospital and returned home. That's when things really started to go wrong.

A: That's right. I was fine when I got home, but I could feel myself getting weaker by the day. Finally, I

woke up one morning and could barely walk. I was also having some trouble moving my arms. Doris called the doctor and he came over right away. He said that I had suffered partial paralysis because of the attack—nothing permanent—and although I wouldn't lose the use of any parts of my body, they'd have to monitor the situation very closely. Right now, I'm starting to feel a little better, but it's going to take some time.

Q: Something tells me that you have every intention of returning to the ring to get revenge by yourself.

A: Listen, Bill, I'm not a foolish man. I know better than to take on four men by myself . . .

Q: But if Kerry and Kevin will help you . . .

A: Then I wouldn't hesitate to get into the ring if the doctors gave me the okay. Look, there's already been too much lost because of this. I got hurt. Kerry lost a chance to win the title from Perez. Kevin, Chris Adams, and Steve Simpson lost the six-man belts by disqualification because Kevin was attacked before the match and got a little carried



“

I can't let these men get away with what they did. If not me, who's next? To them, everyone is fair game for their evil. It must be stopped.

”

away when he had to be replaced by Matt Borne. I'd prefer not to see this thing drag on forever. On the other hand, I can't let these men get away with what they did. If not me, who's next? Who will they attack next with their cowardliness? These men have no respect for fair play. They don't care about the rules or about the sanctity of the sport. To them, everyone is fair game for their evil. It must be stopped.

Q: Can't Kerry and Kevin take care of things by themselves?

A: I don't know. I guess they can, but I don't want them to risk their entire careers. Kerry is still trying to come back from his injuries. Kevin wants that heavyweight title badly. If we let The Freebirds control what we do, we're just playing into their hands. But I have faith that things will turn out okay. Our faith will pull us through, just like it always has. □



The referee is knocked out as Angel of Death and Iceman Parsons continue their assault on Fritz. Kerry accuses Gary Hart of planning the attack.

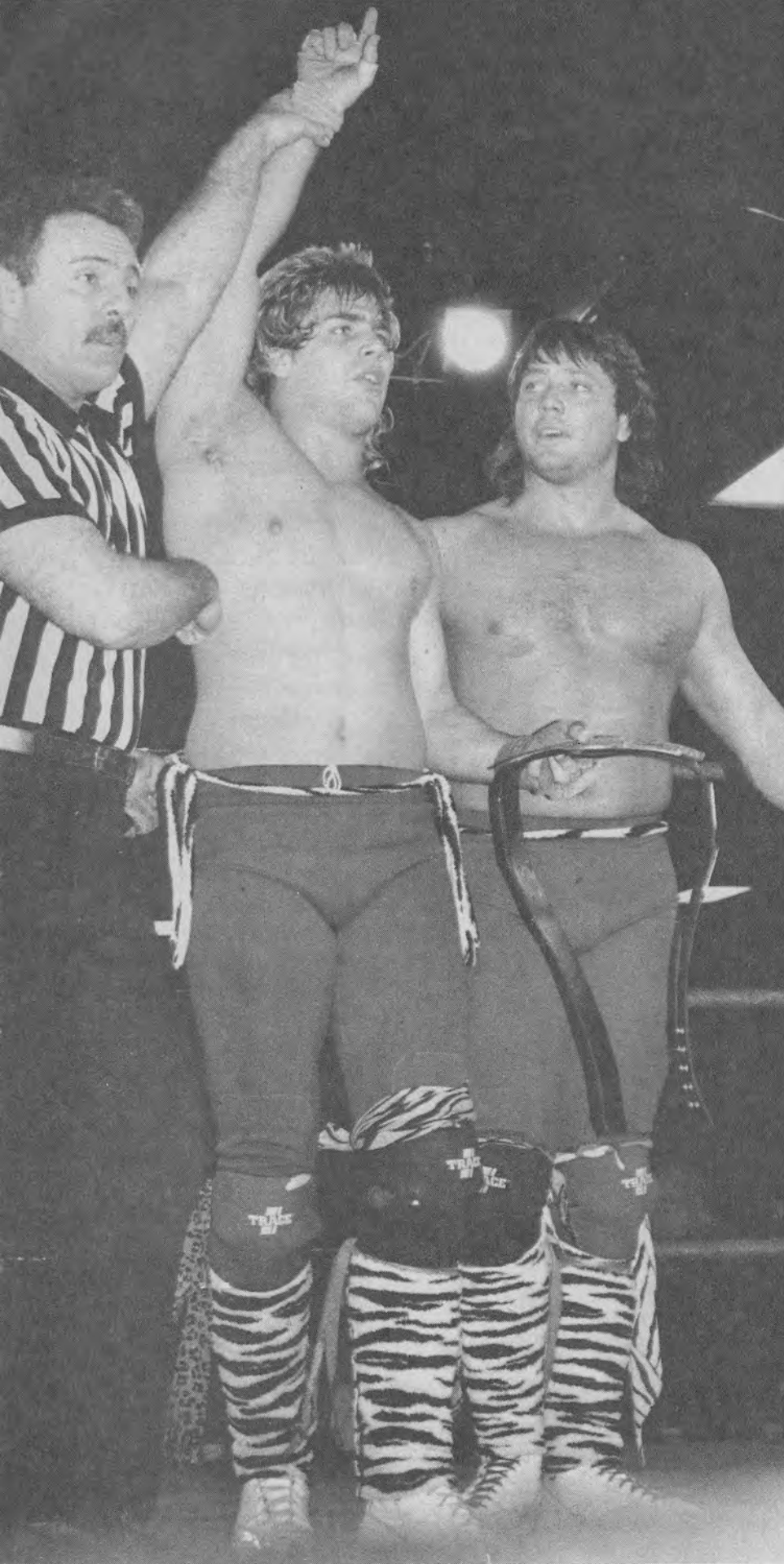
AWA World Champs Again!

THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS DERAIL THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS!

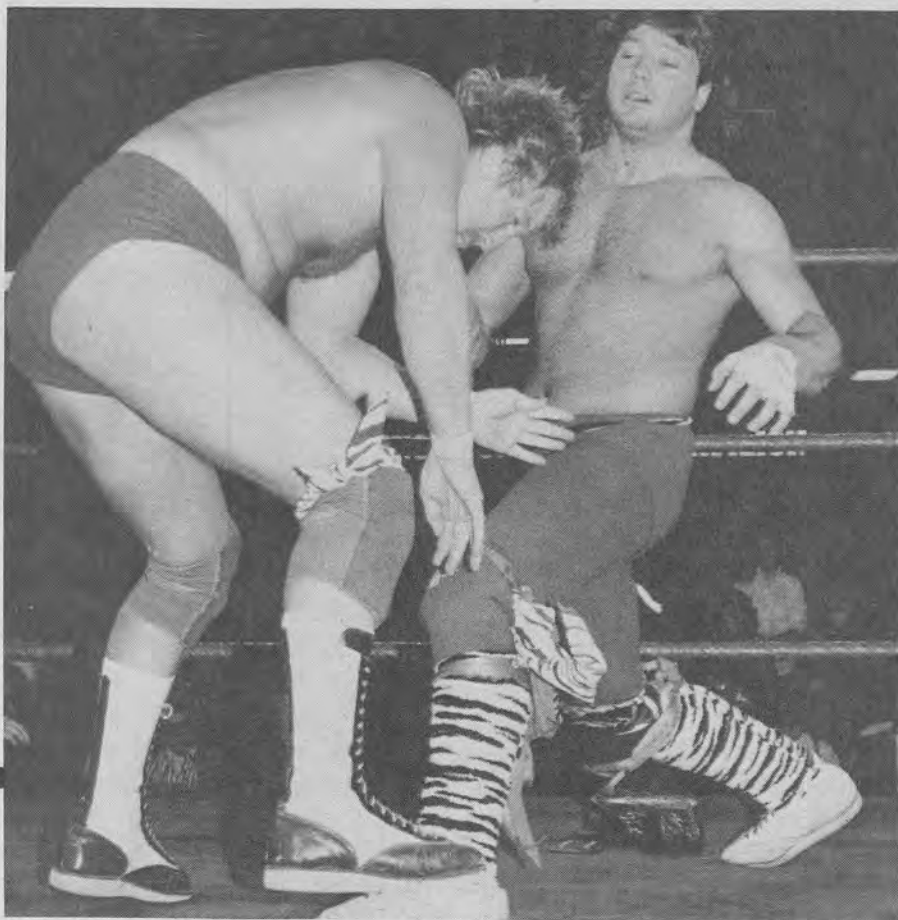
“WELCOME TO THE AWA, my friends,” said Paul E. Dangerously, “the federation where titles change hands in the boardroom, not the wrestling ring. Mr. Stanley Blackburn first decided that Curt Hennig would be the World heavyweight champion, and now he’s decided that The Midnight Rockers should be the tag team champions.

“You are welcome to stay as long as you like. But as for me and Randy and Dennis—we are outta here, and we ain’t never comin’ back!”

With that, Dangerously disappeared through the door, saying goodbye to the press corps gath-



Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels were awarded their second AWA World tag team championship when Stanley Blackburn overruled the "Original" Midnight Express' controversial pinfall victory on December 27 in Las Vegas. The decision sent the Express fleeing and the Rockers flying!



Marty Jannetty gains the upper hand on Randy Rose during the match that gave The Midnight Rockers the AWA World tag team title. The bout ended with Jannetty pinning Dennis Condrey while Rose had Shawn Michaels pinned. AWA President Stanley Blackburn decided that Jannetty's pin was the legal one, reversing the original decision.

ered in his office and leaving the AWA behind.

Dangerously, who relies on deceit as much as brilliance, imagery as much as skill, had finally discovered there was no place for him in a federation that actually bothers to look at tapes to settle controversies. For all their talk, Dangerously and his "Original" Midnight Express couldn't dispute the truth.

As Dangerously so astutely pointed out, both AWA World titles are now in the hands of men who "won" their belts because of decisions handed down by AWA officials. Last May, an AWA review board decided that a videotape re-

play of the May 2, 1987, match between Curt Hennig and Nick Bockwinkel showed no evidence that Larry Zbyszko illegally aided Hennig. Hennig, who won the match by pinfall, was declared champion.

Eight months later, in Minot, North Dakota, a similar decision was handed down by President Stanley Blackburn that gave Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels their second AWA World tag team title.

The controversy centered on a match that took place December 27 at The Showboat in Las Vegas between the Rockers and Dangerously's Midnight Express.

Two days earlier, Jannetty and Michaels, the CWA tag team champions, battled the Express to a 30-minute time-limit draw in Minneapolis. The Rockers were not scheduled for any additional title shots, but were granted another title match for an outstanding effort



Jannetty sets Condrey up for a suplex. The Express' manager, Paul E. Dangerously, was so incensed by Blackburn's ruling that he left the AWA. So did the Express.

and their status as past champions. Or, simply put, the Rockers are a drawing card for AWA promoters.

The Showboat showdown broke out of control when all four men collided with referee Marty Miller. A groggy Miller tried to regain his composure while Jannetty fell on top of Dennis Condrey and Randy Rose fell on top of Shawn Michaels. Substitute referee Bob Warren, who was watching the match from ringside, thought Miller was unable to continue and ran into the ring to count Rose's pin. At the same time, however, Miller had recovered and counted Jannetty's pin of Condrey.

The Express' hands were raised in victory, but Blackburn called for an immediate review of the match tape. He concluded that since it was a double pin situation and Miller, the official referee, made a count, Jannetty's pin would stand. The Rockers were named champi-

ons in Minot, and Dangerously decided he was tired of the AWA's brand of justice.

"It's simply a sham," said Dangerously, who at press time was close to signing a contract with the World Class Wrestling Association. "First of all, it takes them much too long to hand down a decision. Two weeks! Why did it take Blackburn so long? Second of all, Miller was in no condition to make a count. He was practically out cold and had no idea what was going on."

Blackburn, however, insisted that after conferring with Miller after the match, he had no doubt that the referee was fully conscious when he made the three-count. "Mr. Miller was slightly dazed, but he saw the pin and made the count." But how about Rose's pin? "An unofficial referee made that count. Mr. Miller did not see the alleged pin." And if

Blackburn conferred with Miller after the match, why wasn't the alleged pin reversed sooner? "I wanted to talk with all parties involved," said Blackburn.

Jannetty and Michaels, however, feel they deserve the belts. In fact, they claim they never should have lost them. "When we lost to [Boris] Zukhov and [Soldat] Ustinov, it was a total fluke," said Michaels. "We had wrestled them dozens of times and were starting to get complacent, so it was only natural that they'd catch us on a lucky day. Then they refused to give us a rematch, so we decided it was time to get out [of the AWA]."

"That's right, brother," added Jannetty, "The Midnight Rockers are the greatest tag team in the world, the coolest tag team in the world, and the idols of women everywhere, so those Russians were afraid of us. We went 'round the world, searching for the right competition. We ended up in Memphis, and we showed those people the way to wrestle. And now we're the World champions again, because you can't keep a good team down."

Strangely, Jannetty and Michaels weren't given a hero's welcome when they returned to the CWA with the belts. The Rockers' seemingly arrogant attitude has made them hated in Memphis, where fans prefer a more hardcore brawling style. Jannetty and Michaels have always been known for their love of partying and burning the midnight oil; some say it was their downfall the first time they held the World belts.

Further north in the AWA, however, the fans still have a love affair with the Rockers. They don't care that the Rockers won the belts by controversial means. Dangerously and his men are gone, Jannetty and Michaels are here, and the party has begun once again. "As Dangerously said," cracked Michaels, "you're all welcome to stay as long as you like." □

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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel, Adonis & Ventura, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo, Steamboat & Rich, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blissie.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler, Ric Flair, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera, Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski, Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham, Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton, Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.



JULY 1983

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff, Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko, Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Tommy Rich, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper, Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel, Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race, Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine, Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

May 1984/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Butch Reed, Hulk Hogan, Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater, Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering, Jimmy Valiant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen, Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack, Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana, Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan vs. Piper, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura, Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair, Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich, Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy, R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd, Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash, Great American Bash, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds, Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger, Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams, Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious, Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.



OCTOBER 1987

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase, Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele, Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors, Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting, Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

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The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

WHEREVER PAUL E. Dangerously goes, Tommy Rich and Austin Idol follow. In 1987 in Memphis, Rich and Idol, under the management of Dangerously, engaged in a now-famous six-month feud against Jerry Lawler. Bones were broken, blood was shed, titles were exchanged, and there was no winner.

The final image of that feud will always be Dangerously lying in the ring, his leg broken by Lawler and Bill Dundee, while Idol and Rich turned their back on him and returned to the dressing room. Weeks later, Dangerously showed up in the AWA, this time opposed by Rich. But Idol was nowhere to be seen. Dangerously managed the team of Randy Rose and Dennis Condrey to the tag team title and engineered Adrian Adonis' brief feud against Rich—all while talking at ringside on his ever-present portable telephone.

Dangerously and Rose recently left the AWA and went to Southern Championship Wrestling in Georgia, where they once again ran up against Rich. This time, Dangerously offered Rich a chance to rejoin his stable. Rich refused. Dangerously vowed revenge. Finally, during a match between Rich and Rose, Dangerously made a mysterious phone call. Moments later, Austin Idol ran into the ring and attacked Rich. A brutal three-on-one assault ensued and Rich's face was drowned in a mass of blood.

Rose was fined \$1,000 for joining in the attack. Idol was suspended for 30 days. Dangerously, who had his phone taken away by SCW officials, went to

ONE ON ONE



"Let's face it, Rich, you're an underachiever, a loser, and a turncoat. You have no career direction. You have no idea which way you're headed."

—Austin Idol

court and had it returned, but it became obvious that Dangerously had been talking on the phone with Idol. So: Idol and Rich, two former partners, are now going head to head in what promises to become an increasingly brutal feud. For the first time since their partnership in the AWA, Idol and Rich were brought together by *Inside Wrestling* to air their differences . . . "One on One."

AUSTIN IDOL:

Hey, what happened, my man? I see that pretty face of yours is back to normal again. What'd ya do, get plastic surgery after what we did to you? I must say, Rich, you look good in crimson! *Hahaha!*

TOMMY RICH:

And I hope you look half as good, Idol, because soon you're

gonna be wearing the same color. I hope you're proud of that cowardly three-on-one attack. What's the matter, can't you take care of your own business by yourself?

AI: Don't be a fool, Rich. I could twist you apart with one hand if I wanted, but I wanted to punish you. I wanted to see you bleeding and writhing in pain. It only takes one man to beat you. We needed three men to mutilate you, make the blood pour from every vein in your body. You made a big mistake by turning down Paul E., and you made a bigger mistake when you ran out on me in Memphis. I should've known from your past history that you can never stay put.

TR: Walked out on you in Memphis? Listen, Idol, I've made some mistakes in my past, and I wasn't

V ONE



"Go ahead, Idol, come and get me. I'm ready for you [and] for [Paul E.] Dangerously—anytime, anyplace. Don't be a coward. Meet me face to face."

—Tommy Rich

about to keep on making another one. That feud with Lawler never should've happened and I never should've started teaming with you and Dangerously. I made a mistake before when I feuded with Buzz Sawyer and here I was getting caught up in another feud and going nowhere. For some reason, I'm the one who first stood up against Lawler because he didn't deserve those shots against [Nick] Bockwinkel [for the AWA World championship in 1986], and you were the one who got all the matches against Bockwinkel. You and Dangerously used me, but it took me a while to realize it.

AI: Used you? Get off it, Rich. You were the one who was using me and Paul. How about that scene in Memphis when Paul was get-

ting attacked by Lawler and Dundee and you just walked back to the dressing room? I couldn't believe what was going on, so I went after you, although I should've stayed back and helped Paul. Then Paul got back there and started chewing out both of us for leaving him behind. Believe me, it took a long time for me to convince Paul that it was you, not me, and not *both* of us, that walked out on him.

TR: You got *that* right.

AI: Let's face it, Rich, you're an underachiever, a loser, and a turncoat. You have no career direction. You have no idea which way you're headed. Paul E. gave you an opportunity. He made champions out of Rose and Condrey. He was about to make a champion out of Adonis, but the

AWA forced his hand. You want direction? You want to stay out of stupid feuds? You want a belt? Well, you had your chance with Paul. Now you're headed nowhere again.

TR: Well, at least I saved face by . . .

AI: Your face didn't look too good the other night! *Ha!*

TR: Cut the wisecracks, Idol, 'cause the same thing's gonna happen to you. Listen, I've made it on my own before. I was the NWA World heavyweight champion of the . . .

AI: For five days! *Haha!* That has to be some kind of record! Talk about a fluke!

TR: Tell me, Idol, when were *you* World champion? Not once did you win the Mid-Southern title without the help of Paul or me. When I was champion, I did it on my own. I'm proud of what I've done. I'm proud that I've learned from mistakes and gotten rid of you *and* Dangerously. I'm never going back. Go ahead, Idol, make me bleed. Break my bones. But it'll be a cold day in hell before I sink to you and Dangerously's level. I've seen what kind of management he offers. The man uses people. He goes and . . .

AI: He creates champions. He makes people wealthy. And he's always one step ahead of everybody. You know, I bet you had no idea that it was me Paul E. was talking to on the phone all these months. Nobody had any idea that me and Paul were working together to plan your destruction. Paul gave you the chance to escape, to avoid getting destroyed by us, but you were too stupid to take his offer. Now get prepared for more of what we did the other night.

TR: Go ahead, Idol, come and get me. I'm ready for you, for Dangerously, and for Rose—anytime, anyplace. Just don't be a coward, Idol. Meet me face to face and I'll take on all three of you. You seem to forget, Idol, that I know you and Dangerously like the back of my hand. I'll be one step ahead of you every time.

AI: I'm looking forward to it, and so is Paul. It's gonna be our pleasure to run you out of wrestling. Good luck, buddy! □

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

watch Itsuki Yamazaki and Noriyo Tateno, the famous Jumping Bomb Angels from Japan, display scientific and aerial techniques that put even The British Bulldogs to shame.

Ever since arriving in the U.S., the Angels have had their eyes on the WWF belts. Those who have seen them compete knew it was only a matter of time before the belts were strapped around their waists. The Angels weigh in at a combined 278 pounds, less than many single male wrestlers, but they've proven that size means so little in this sport. A skilled small person will overcome the clumsy behemoth every time; if Hogan ever granted a match to a scientific wrestler, we'd see that was true.

Of course, The Glamour Girls aren't exactly clumsy behemoths. Judy Martin and Lelani Kai are in good shape and managed by Jimmy Hart, one of the most brilliant (though irritating) minds in the sport. Kai and Martin know their way around a wrestling ring, too, and posed a serious test for the Japanese girls.

In fact, the champs won the first fall when Kai pinned

Yamazaki. But the Angels, whose high-flying, tireless style has captured the fancy of fans around the country, rallied to victory in the second fall. Tateno executed a beautiful sunset flip that rendered Kai helpless. Martin tried to interfere but couldn't beat the ref's three-count.

In the third fall, the Angels executed a magnificent double-dropkick from adjacent turnbuckles to floor Martin. Yamazaki hooked Martin's arms and legs for the three-count and the Angels were champs. Videotape replays showed that Yamazaki lifted Martin's shoulder off the mat when she hooked her arm, and commentator Jesse Ventura claimed that the Angels' double-dropkick was illegal—but form, style, and execution should count for something. Martin had tried to place her foot over the ropes, but Yamazaki prevented her by hooking the leg.

It's amazing how a pair of unknown Japanese female wrestlers could capture a crowd the way the Angels did. Yamazaki and Tateno gave the fans a lesson in scientific wrestling. As Assistant Editor Gian Trotta said, "The

The Jumping Bomb Angels double-team Lelani Kai. The Angels, an extremely talented duo from Japan, defeated Kai and Judy Martin (The Glamour Girls) in a best-of-three-falls match at The Royal Rumble to win the WWF women's tag team belts.



WWF should've made the men watch this match at ringside so they could learn a few things."

If they had, Brett Hart could've stayed back in the dressing room, because he already knows how to wrestle. To answer the question posed in the opening paragraph: Yes, Brett Hart is the best (male) wrestler in the WWF, followed closely by Rick Steamboat and Ted DiBiase. Hart's performance in The Royal Rumble spoke for itself.

For the uninitiated, The Royal Rumble consisted of 20 wrestlers in a unique battle royal format. The match started with Hart going one-on-one against Tito Santana, a perfect rivalry to start things off. Then, every two minutes, another wrestler entered the ring. It could've been a fan favorite or a rulebreaker; numbers were drawn earlier in the evening. Wrestlers could only be eliminated by being thrown over the top rope.

Hart, the first man in the ring, hardly had a chance to win, since it figured that the last wrestlers to enter the ring would have a big advantage, since they wouldn't have to wrestle as long. Hacksaw Duggan, the winner, was the 13th man in. One Man Gang, the last man thrown out, was the 19th to enter.

Brett Hart lasted for nearly 36 minutes of an all-out brawl. Santana was eliminated nearly 10 minutes earlier. Imagine the stamina it took for Hart to remain in the ring so long. Hogan is usually winded after 15 minutes. Butch Reed, the third man into the ring, lasted only a few minutes. This was an amazing performance by "The Hitman," whose wrestling ability is often overshadowed by his propensity for brawling and rulebreaking.

The best part of it all was that Hart and The Jumping Bomb Angels' performances were shown live on USA Network. On January 24, 1988, at least, the best things in life were free. ☐

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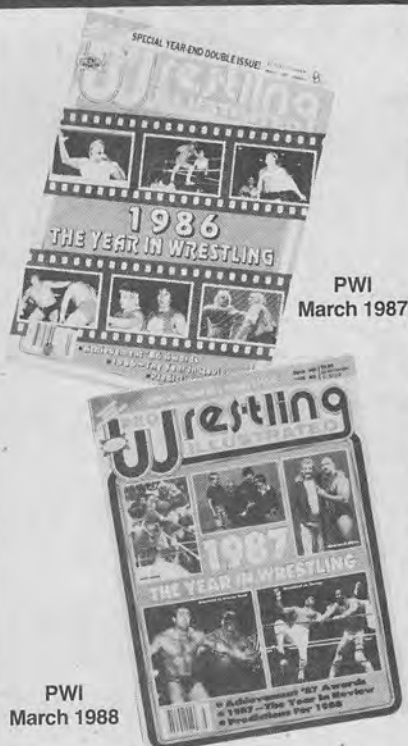
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WINDHAM-BABY DOLL

(Continued from page 31)



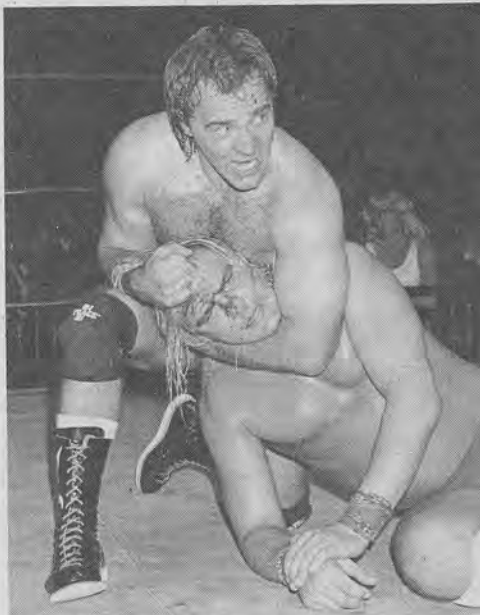
She always has an ulterior motive. And if you'll notice, she always causes trouble in her wake. For some reason, men are willing to risk their lives for her."

Baby Doll is currently casting her spell on Zbyszko, who didn't hesitate to hire her as his valet/adviser when he jumped from the AWA to the NWA late last year. Zbyszko was impressed with Baby Doll's extensive collection of wrestling tapes and her knowledge of the sport. He was also impressed with Baby Doll herself and, according to insiders, has pursued a love relationship from the start.

"One of the things men apparently like about Baby Doll is that she acts as a maternal figure," said Basil. "She's a very big, very strong woman, and she's also very protective. Baby Doll also likes to be protected, however, and the man's ego is fulfilled in that way. In Zbyszko's case, she finally tried to attract someone with the idea of her wrestling expertise, but apparently Zbyszko was more interested in forming a *relationship* with Baby Doll."

Zbyszko wasn't the first. In 1984, Baby Doll was hired as Gino Hernandez's bodyguard in World Class, but quickly became more than that. She

Baby Doll tries to tell the ref what his job is (above) and she lurks in the background as Zbyszko chinlocks Windham (below).



would come to the ring wearing leather pants, new wave shirts and glasses, and frequently interfered for Gino. Their personal relationship was no secret; Gino was in love with Baby Doll, but she eventually shunned him.

Later that year, Baby Doll was seen with Tully Blanchard while vacationing in Florida. Tully asked her to leave Hernandez but she refused. Finally, after receiving many lavish gifts from

Blanchard, she left Hernandez to become Tully's valet.

Soon, however, the basis for her relationship with Dusty Rhodes was formed. At the 1985 Great American Bash, Dusty won the services of Baby Doll for 30 days. Baby Doll stole Rhodes' credit cards and fled back to Blanchard. On July 21, 1985, Blanchard won the U.S. title from Magnum T.A. with Baby Doll's help. Days later, Baby Doll told T.A. to get in touch with her if he ever needed "a real woman." Then, Tully and J.J. Dillon accused her of flying to Acapulco on stolen money. Blanchard slapped Baby Doll and Dusty came to her rescue.

The Dusty-Baby Doll relationship seemed solid, especially in late July 1986 when Rhodes won the NWA World championship from Ric Flair. But Baby Doll showed her true colors only two weeks later when Flair regained the belt from Rhodes. Baby Doll turned on Dusty, calling him "a loser," and started coming to interviews with Flair.

That didn't last long, though, mainly because Flair had learned from his predecessors. "I looked at her history," said Flair. "I decided I didn't need any trouble from that broad, so I told her to hit the high road." Baby Doll was then hired by Mama Cornette for personal services, but soon left the NWA.

Now that she's back, Baby Doll has already hurt Zbyszko. According to reliable sources, J.J. Dillon was going to ask Zbyszko to replace Lex Luger in The Four Horsemen, but Flair and Blanchard talked him out of it. The reason is clear: Baby Doll.

Failure always comes quickly to the men she's with: Tully Blanchard didn't win the National title until Baby Doll left him. Gino Hernandez couldn't maintain a hold on the World Class American title while she was with him. Dusty Rhodes lost the NWA World title while with her. Distracted by Baby Doll, success is impossible. Blinded by jealousy after she leaves, her men often engage in useless feuds.

Barry Windham has the upper hand in his war with Zbyszko. And he probably doesn't even know why. ☐

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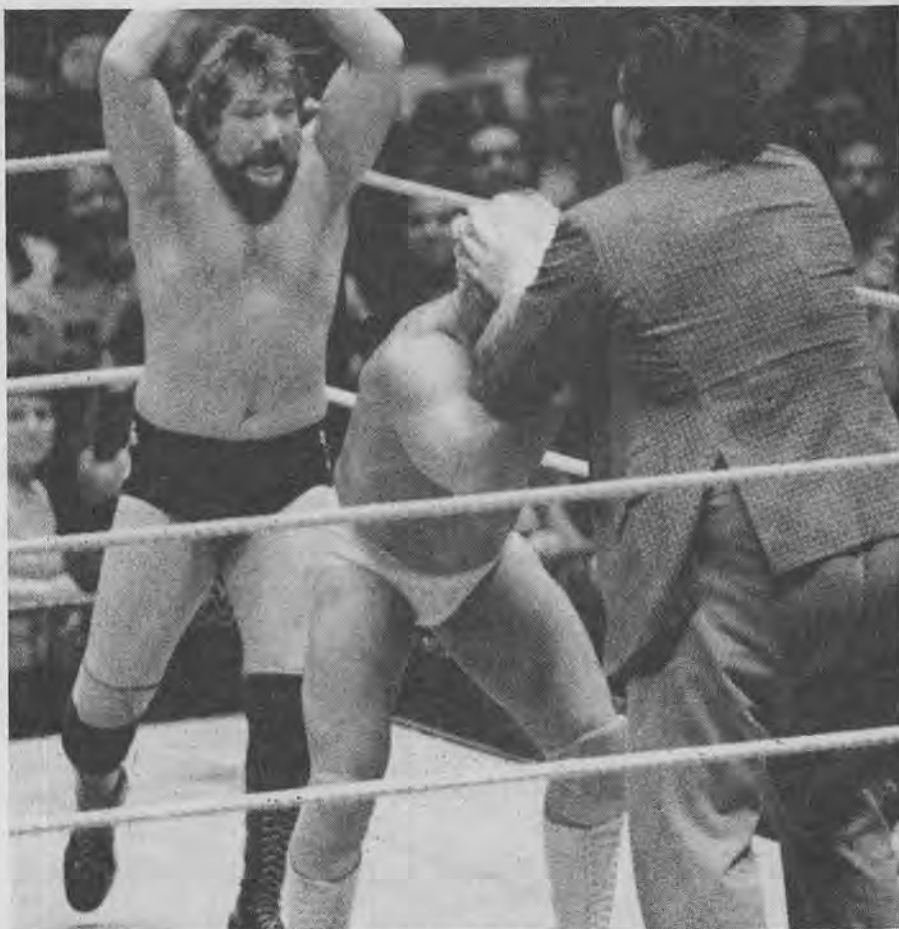
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TED DiBIASE

(Continued from page 34)



Andre the Giant interferes and gives DiBiase an opening to attack "The Hulkster." DiBiase's purchase of Andre's contract was part of his master plan.

est men in North America. What he's saying on interviews isn't all talk. The man has significant assets, more than enough to buy 10 World championships. More than enough to buy the entire WWF!"

Silence once again fell upon the staff. Anybody with an ounce of knowledge about the corporate world knew what this meant: If he wishes, DiBiase could buy out the contracts of some of the top wrestlers in the WWF, or even make McMahon an offer so lucrative that he couldn't refuse a deal to sell the entire WWF, making DiBiase owner, president, and matchmaker.

"From what I can tell, DiBiase's offer to buy the belt from Hogan and then Andre was only a preliminary plan," said Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum. "DiBiase would buy the WWF only as a last resort. It's something he really doesn't need, because he has all the material wealth he could

ever want. He probably figured he'd try to buy the belt, and if that didn't work he'd buy the entire federation to get revenge."

"And if he takes over the WWF, he also takes over everybody's contracts," added Peters. "Hogan, Andre, Bam Bam Bigelow, Hacksaw Duggan, Randy Savage, Rick Steamboat, The Honky Tonk Man—they'd all be his. DiBiase would virtually *own* these wrestlers for the length of their contracts, and he'd be able to manipulate their careers to his whims!"

This was an incredible development in the unprecedented turmoil that has enveloped the WWF since DiBiase first made his offer to Hogan. Nobody thought DiBiase would stop trying when Hogan refused to sell him the World title for a figure said to be in seven figures, and it came as no surprise when "The Million-Dollar Man"

(Continued on page 54)

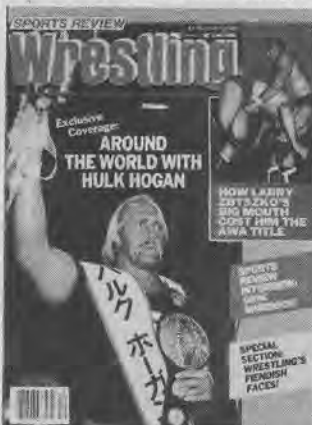
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May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.
June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.
July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.
October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.
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August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!
December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.
February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.



DECEMBER 1985

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.
April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.
May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Luger, Dundee, UWF tourney.
October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.
November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.
January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Luger, 1987 Datebook.
March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.
April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.
May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.
June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.
November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.
December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.
January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.
February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.
March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.

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TED DiBIASE

(Continued from page 52)

made a more lucrative offer to Andre the Giant and manager Bobby Heenan. Andre accepted the offer, but he still had to win the belt from Hogan on February 5 in Indianapolis. If he failed, DiBiase was still without the title.

"As sick as it sounds, it would probably be better for all involved if Andre won on February 5 and gave the title to DiBiase," said Assistant Editor Gian Trotta. "This way, DiBiase would have to defend the title, most likely against Hogan; and though he's a great wrestler, he'd probably lose to Hogan."

"On the other hand," interjected Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez, "if Hogan beats Andre, DiBiase would have to go to plan two, which could mean buying the WWF. That would be the worst thing that could happen, and would probably mean the very destruction of the WWF itself. Of course, Andre selling the belt to DiBiase would cause significant damage to the WWF, too. The title would mean nothing."

Either way, the WWF could be in for trouble. A bought belt is worth nothing. People would have no respect for a man who bought his belt. And once the belt is tarnished, there would be no turning back. Obviously, the new champion would be a farce. But if he lost the belt, the next champion would know that he didn't beat the *real* champ. And would fans turn out to see a bogus champion defend the title? Probably not.

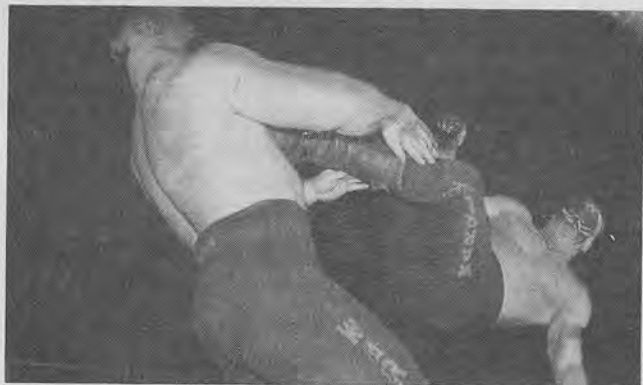
DiBiase buying the WWF is definitely the worst of the two evils. Apparently, DiBiase only wants the WWF so he can become matchmaker. He'd schedule himself in countless matches against the champion until he won the title, then probably defend the belt against preliminary bums.

Unfortunately, DiBiase holds the trump card. His money apparently *can* buy anything. And now he's looking to buy the ultimate prize! ☐

ROAD WARRIORS

(Continued from page 37)

INTANGIBLES



Hawk dropkicks Warlord



Warlord slams Hawk

THE ROAD WARRIORS: While some have criticized Paul Ellering's inability to guide the Warriors to the NWA World tag team belts, he is generally well-respected as a manager . . . Some say the Warriors' failure to win the NWA World belts represents a softness they've developed since turning fan favorite . . . In response to such criticism, the Warriors' style has recently been taking on a much harder edge . . . Hawk and Animal are fully confident that they can dispose of Warlord and Barbarian and are counting on a clear-cut victory to force the NWA into giving them a shot at the World tag team belts.

BARBARIAN & WARLORD: Jones plays a key role as peacekeeper between these former enemies . . . The manager has enlisted Ivan Koloff to team with Warlord and Barbarian, allowing the free man extra training time . . . The strategy, however, has left little time for Warlord and Barbarian to work on their teamwork . . . A loss in the weightlifting competition would seriously damage their confidence and put them at a decided disadvantage throughout the series.

OVERALL ANALYSIS



Animal uses a chair on Barbarian



Barbarian controls Hawk

Hawk and Animal are determined to prove their superiority over Barbarian and Warlord, even if it means putting off NWA World tag title shots. But a victory in this war may not be so easily won: Warlord and Barbarian are remarkably powerful men—among the most underrated wrestlers in the sport.

For his part, Jones' reckless challenge is seen by some as the latest folly of a crazed mind. Others, though, see it as a brilliant attempt to psych out the Warriors by taking an aggressive initiative against Hawk and Animal that few teams have ever attempted. This untested strategy may be the wisest ploy anyone has attempted against the Warriors.

On a long-term basis, the Warriors cannot survive a loss in this feud. Warlord and Barbarian, on the other hand, have little to lose. And that could be the deciding factor: Warlord and Barbarian can wrestle recklessly; the Warriors have to wrestle more carefully, assuring that they win each outing.

While the Warriors hold a decided advantage in teamwork and experience, with everything to lose in this series and little to gain they are going to feel the pressure. If they are mentally equipped to handle that challenge—and Paul Ellering will play a major role here—they should emerge victorious.

□

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 20)

this terrific lizard and crocodile skin number I got down in Australia. Sunday is reserved for the AWA strap, which I anticipate owning very shortly.

"But first Lawler. I've hated that old man for years now. The King. 'Uh, don't talk to me, I'm a King.' King my tamale. He's an overaged geezer living off ignorant Memphis fans. Wait'll they get a taste of me. Wait'll they see a *real* man in action."



The last time I spoke with Terry was a few days after Eddie Gilbert's wedding (well documented in my column in the January 1988 *Inside Wrestling*). Four days before the wedding, Taylor threw Gilbert a bachelor party they're *still* talking about. Taylor, anxious to feed me the details of the marathon debauchery, called me at home. It was difficult, but I managed to steer the conversation toward his chances against Koloff in their then-upcoming Starrcade showdown. I sensed I was speaking with a man about to become unhinged.

"I'm not even training, Liz," he told me. "The dirty Commie isn't worth the time it'll take to put him away."

Confidence is one thing. Show me a wrestler who isn't sure he'll win and I'll show you a man al-

most certain to lose. But this was bravado bordering on stupidity. And the results spoke clearly of Taylor's lack of preparation. Nikita punished him from ringpost to ringpost, unrelenting in his attack, and unified the UWF and NWA TV belts.

Now, several months later, I am conversing with a madman. Though his UWF belt is long lost, Taylor continues to speak as though he is still champion of the now-defunct federation. Further proof of his insanity is his attitude regarding Lawler and Bill Dundee.

"I'll wrestle them both," he boasted at one point. "What do they call that? A handicap match, right? So if I wrestle a couple of

driving home from a match last year, Taylor's car skidded out of control and smashed into another vehicle. The seat belt he wore saved his life, but the impact drove part of the belt into Taylor's stomach. He required extensive surgery, eventually surrendering part of his intestines to the surgeon's knife. While his physical recovery was relatively uncomplicated, one can only guess at the psychological scars.

"Terry hasn't been the same since," commented one of his close friends. "It's like his head got turned around. He's a different person. I think, though, with some help he can regain his composure and return to form."



Taylor's number-one target is Jerry Lawler (opposite page). Eddie Gilbert gives Taylor some leverage during his Starrcade match with Koloff (above). Liz Hunter believes we are witnessing the mental deterioration of a once fine man.

retards it works out nearly even. Between Lawler and Dundee maybe you'll find half a brain. What can you expect from someone who seriously calls himself 'King'? He sounds and looks like a cocker spaniel I used to own."

Taylor has come a long way from the endearing, soft-spoken matinee idol who used to thrill crowds and please fans. It's a sad tale of a young man thought to have a real shot at a world title. Terry Taylor has become old before his time.

What triggered his sickness? His few remaining defenders point toward injuries he incurred as a result of a car accident. While

"Don't worry about me, babe," Taylor demands. "I'm fine. I'm the finest. Making room for trophies and belts. Clearing the vault for big, big money."

Talking with Taylor these days is like speaking to a keg of dynamite. How long can he live in his simple world of make-believe? While he spins tall tales of success, any hopes he has of attaining real success—through hard training and strategy planning—diminish each day.

Taylor can't last long in this frame of mind. He's a volatile man right now, backed into the corner of career instability. I feel sorry for him. ☐

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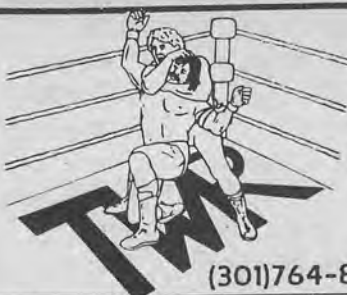
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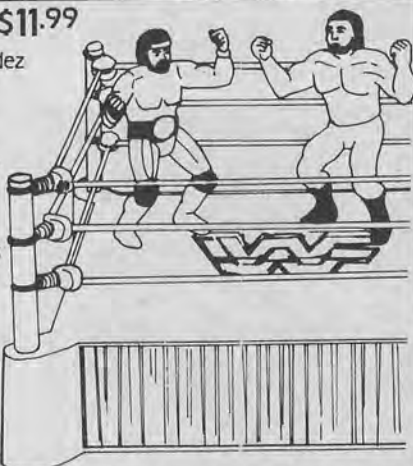
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(Continued from page 6)

tational. This event would feature 15 to 20 champions from around the world, such as Ric Flair (NWA), Hulk Hogan (WWF), Curt Hennig (AWA), Steve Williams (UWF), Jumbo Tsuruta (Japan International), Carlos Colon (WWC), Al Perez (World Class), Antonio Inoki (IWGP), Dusty Rhodes (U.S.), Barry Windham (Western States), and Nikita Koloff (World TV). They would compete in an elimination tournament similar to the Crockett Cup for a trophy and a cash bonus.

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CURTIS BELLAMY
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OFF THE MARK

I am writing in response to the cover story of the February 1988 issue, "A Special Analysis By Jesse Ventura: 'Randy Savage Has Wimped Out!'" Jesse, you no longer know Randy Savage. The "Macho Man" has continued to prove his superiority over his opponents. He defeated King Kong Bundy to become 1987's "King of the Ring." The killer instinct he possesses has arisen again due to The Honky Tonk



Randy Savage (rubbing green spew in Killer Khan's face) is more macho than Jesse Ventura will ever be, writes Robert Huse.

Man's actions on *Saturday Night's Main Event*.

As far as you go, Jesse, your statement that Hulk Hogan befriends his greatest enemies in order to save his belt is absurd. Haven't enough beatings from Hogan taught you anything? And you say you'd beat Hogan if Arnold Schwarzenegger trained you. You've been shooting your mouth off

(Continued on page 60)

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Has Koko B. Ware been "molded to the liking of the WWF system"? That is reader Brooks Roebuck's theory about how Vince McMahon runs the federation. Eventually, Roebuck adds, such wrestlers become lost in the WWF shuffle.

for so long, you've probably forgotten how to wrestle. In fact, running your mouth is the only thing you *can* do!

You might as well give it up. Nobody's going to believe your tall tale. Savage has evolved into a higher form of wrestler that makes you look like a caveman. Go hunt dinosaurs, because you can't handle the fact that Savage is still a better man than you will ever be.

ROBERT HUSE
Georgetown, MA

WHO'S THE BEEF?

There are so many wrestlers who treat themselves like cattle.

When cattle are fattened to the point that their value is increased, they are sent to the slaughterhouse. The cow is then killed and made into hamburgers fixed to please the public. The public

knows these burgers are not pure beef, because so many fillers are added by the beef producers. The hamburger, unlike the cow, cannot "moo" anymore, plus they get lost in the multitudes of other burgers.

When a wrestler is very popular (Koko B. Ware) or unpopular (One Man Gang) with the fans, he has the choice of whether or not to market his talents for the WWF. If he chooses to go there, he is then molded or twisted and changed to the liking of the WWF's system (Dingo Warrior/Ultimate Warrior). The fans know what Vince McMahon has done, but they keep buying tickets to see his shows. The wrestlers in the WWF have no say whatsoever to the public anymore and are lost in the WWF shuffle.

BROOKS ROEBUCK
Thamesville, Ontario □

THIS MONTH IN...



THE Wrestler



LEX LUGER'S plan to destroy **THE FOUR HORSEMEN** shows **ARN ANDERSON** as target number one!



Belt or no belt, **HULK HOGAN** is still the people's champion!

PLUS . . .

1987 Rookie of the Year **OWEN HART** challenges **RIC FLAIR** . . . **JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY** take on **THE FANTASTICS** . . . Memo to a should-be champion: Get your act together, **SCOTT HALL**! . . . "Q & A" interview with **MADUSA MICELI** . . . Spotlight on **TED DIBIASE**

All this and much more . . .
in the May 1988 issue of
The Wrestler

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Is the end near for **HULK HOGAN**?



Three times a champion!
DUSTY RHODES wins The
Bunkhouse Stampede!

PLUS . . .

A dynamic full-color centerfold plus biography of **TULLY BLANCHARD** . . . An in-depth "Press Conference" with **AL PEREZ** . . . **THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS** take on **KEVIN KELLY** and **NICK KINISKI** . . . The rebirth of **MAGNIFICENT MURACO** . . . "Media Review" and "The PWI Poll"

All this and much more . . .
in the June 1988 issue of
Pro Wrestling Illustrated

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THE Wrestler

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JUNE 1975

June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

August 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Patterson, Stasiak, Rivera.

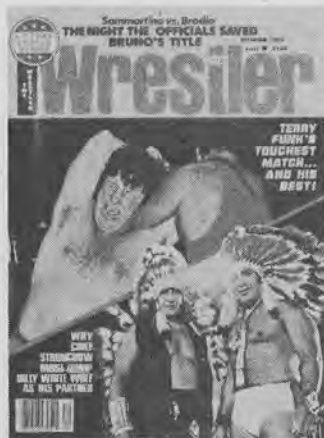
December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.



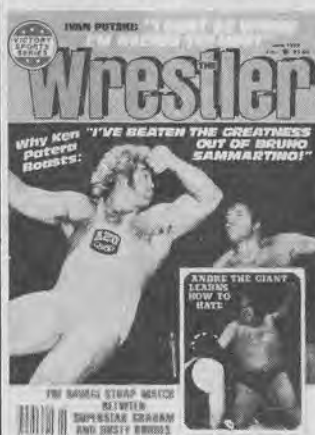
DECEMBER 1976

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Vallants, Andersons, Sammartino.



JUNE 1977

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Mascaras.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

September 1979/Stories include: Superstar Gramham, Cyclone Negro, Greg Gagne, Mil Mascaras.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

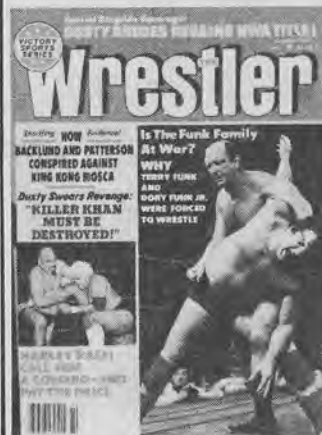
May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

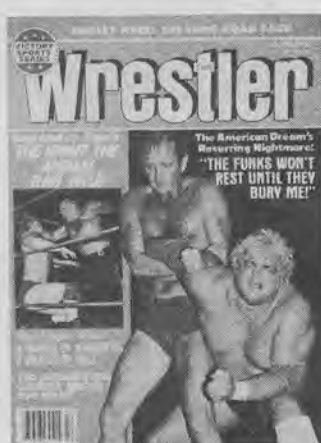
July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.



OCTOBER 1981



DECEMBER 1981

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

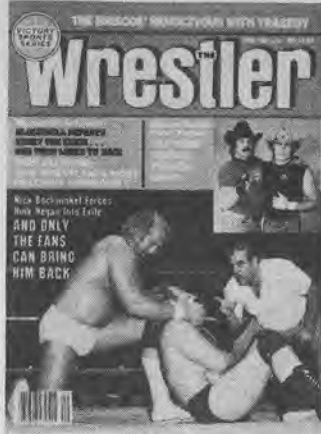
April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Omdorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.



SEPTEMBER 1983

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscoes.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscoes, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

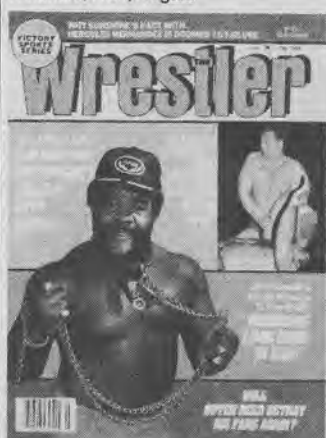
February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.



JULY 1985

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

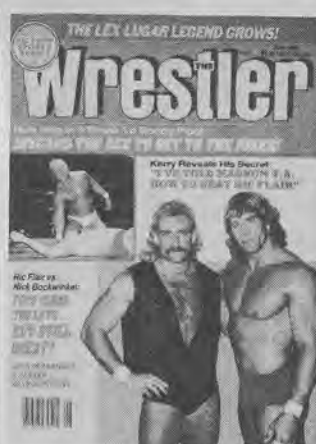
January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.



JUNE 1986

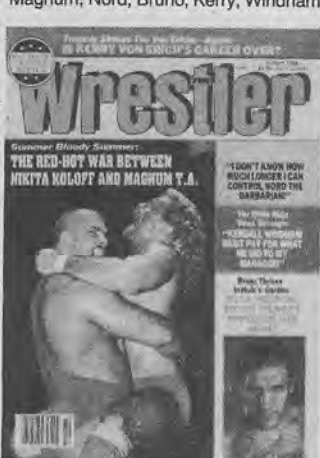
June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.



OCTOBER 1986

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

April 1988/Special Issue! Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)

Today, it's hard to miss wrestling. Between networks, independent stations, cable, and pay-per-view, pro wrestling is the most available sport on the airwaves.

But is what we are seeing of any value? I certainly wouldn't argue that the production quality of a WWF telecast is the equal of any other sporting event on TV. But after slicing through the shtick, the cutsey interviews, and the pandering, what are we left with? A mass of Matilda muffins. A flock of Frankie furters.

Recognizing the problem doesn't solve it. Why change your format when each show is a bigger ratings monster than the last?

And the competition isn't helping matters either. Jim Crockett, said by some to be the Barnum to Vince McMahon's Bailey, brought an NWA promotion recently to New York's Nassau Coliseum. The card featured the finals of The Bunkhouse Stampede, plus title defenses of the NWA World and Western States belts. Crockett ignored local print advertising, instead promoting the card on less-effective radio outlets (such as all-talk WGBB-AM, and an AM oldies station; how many wrestling fans listen to talk radio or AM oldies as opposed to, let's try common sense here, FM rock?). As far as TV, promotion of the card was mainly on WTBS, but a significant percentage of the New York metropolitan area is without cable. As a result, only one station (WPIX channel 11) regularly relayed card information to the fans.

Tickets sold featured two different starting times, 7:00 and 8:00; the card began at 6:30. Fans were justifiably angered. The card drew about 6,500 people and was viewed as a disappointment. I wasn't there. I attended David Letterman's sixth anniversary

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show at Radio City Music Hall and watched the NWA card on tape later that night (thus denying myself the pleasure of watching in person Dusty Rhodes steal The Bunkhouse Stampede). Also, at Radio City Music Hall, sporting a minor entourage, was Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, who was introduced by Letterman to a thundering chorus of boos and catcalls.



Rather than be with his men at The Royal Rumble, Bobby Heenan chose to promote himself on a national talk show.

Why wasn't Heenan at the WWF's Royal Rumble in Hamilton, Ontario? Why did he abandon Rick Rude and Harley Race? I'll tell you why. Because the WWF mindset is geared toward publicity—the more the better. For Heenan to be introduced on a popular nationwide talk show is more valuable for him and for the federation (although it doesn't do much for his wrestlers: Race was eliminated early in the Rumble, and Rude dropped a decision to Rick Steamboat he might have won if his manager was present).

Fifteen years ago, you can bet Lou Albano—the King of media events—would *never* have forsaken George Steele for an evening of personal pleasure.

That's the difference between today and yesteryear. Give me yesteryear. ☐

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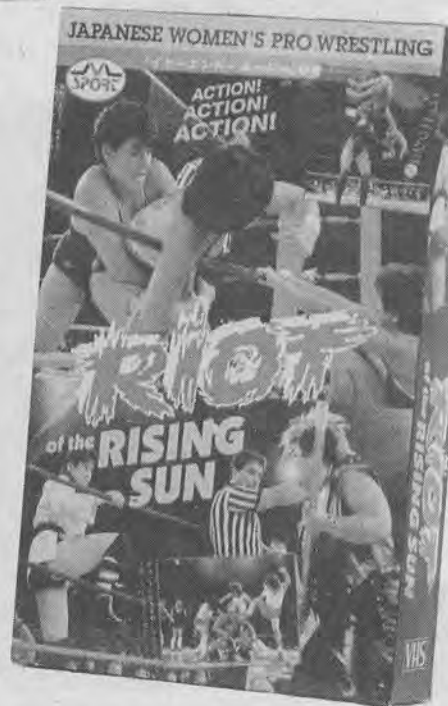
(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
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Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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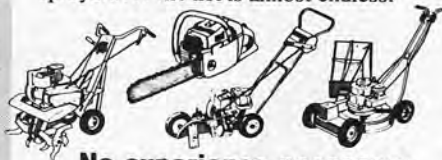
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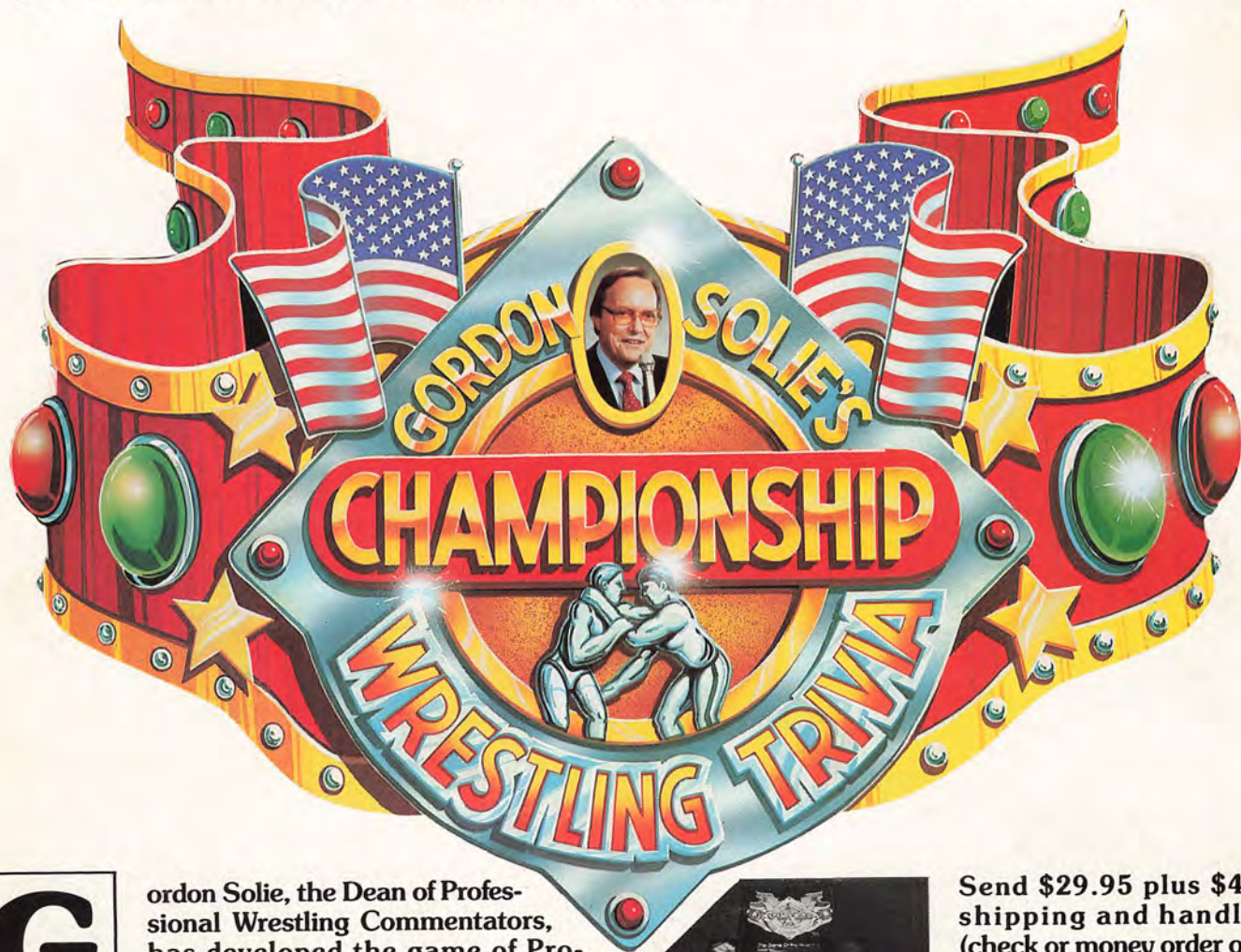
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